

RECREATION

Formerly THE PLAYGROUND

— May, 1931 —

SILVER ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

The Contribution of the Recreation Movement to Physical Education

By E. D. Mitchell

Drumming for Playgrounds

By Lee F. Hanmer

Public Recreation and Leisure

By Will R. Reeves

Public Recreation Viewed from the Half-way Mark

By Harold S. Bottenheim and Martha Candler

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Leisure

Leisure for everybody, a condition that we in America are now approaching, is a new thing under the sun—the most revolutionary thing that ever happened. It means the coming of something unheard of in all history—the opportunity for every man to live.

Man is a stranger in the modern world. An outdoor animal by nature, he is locked in factories and in crowded cities; an artist, a thinker, an inventor he is tied to the fool-proof machines. It is seldom and only by great good fortune that he finds in our industrial world an outlet for his adventurous and creative spirit. We are all victims of disappointed instinct—homesick for something for which nature fashioned us which we have left behind, for something dreamed of that we have not attained.

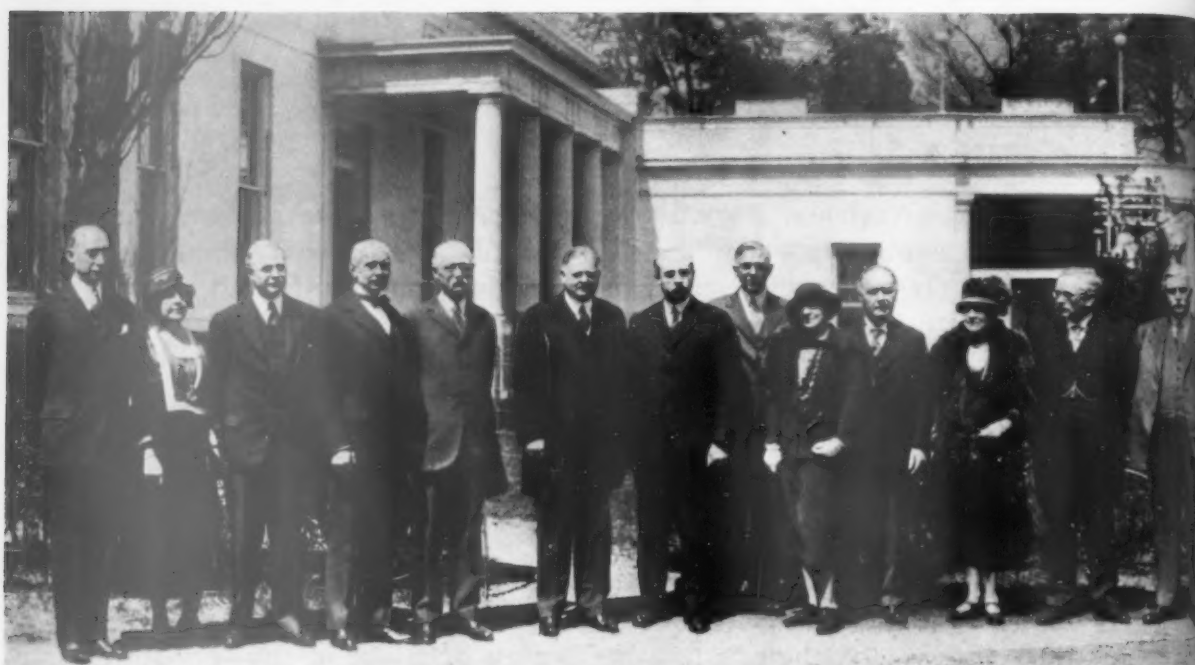
There is nothing new in this condition. Through all the centuries that history records, freedom to live has been a privilege of the very few. Ancient civilization, with its marvelous freeing of man's soul in art and science, was built on slavery. Life in the Middle Ages was for the noble, to whom were reserved the arts of war and government and of the chase. Life-precluding toil was for the serf. Always, in organized society, the great mass has labored that the few might live.

In modern times these conditions, legally speaking, have been changed; serfdom and slavery in a political sense have been abolished. But the thing itself—denial of the right to live—persists. Life has still been the monopoly of the very few.

But now the incredible thing has happened. By great good fortune—by accident so far as we are concerned and not by our design—this gift is brought to us, the gift of universal leisure, unprecedented since the fall of man. It is a magic gift. The goddess hands it to us with a smile, knowing its portentous possibilities for good or ill according to the use we make of it. Here is our chance—the most extraordinary ever granted to a nation—bearing the heaviest responsibility. We may employ it in revisiting, in the woods, and by the streams, and at the playing fields, the ancient sources of our strength and may seek in the pursuit of beauty and of understanding, our great inheritance; or we may spend the gift in the frenzied seeking of sensation and in barren pleasures. We may choose the path of life or pass it by.

JOSEPH LEE.

Recreation Movement Celebrates Birthday



Reading from left to right: Otto T. Mallery, President of Philadelphia Playground Association; Mrs. Charles Lanier, Greenwich, Conn.; F. S. Titsworth, Attorney, New York City; Gustavus T. Kirby, President of Public School Athletic League, New York City; Joseph Lee, Boston, President of the Association; President Hoover; H. S. Brand, Secretary of the Association; Carl E. Milliken, Former Governor of Maine; Mrs. Arthur E. Cummer, Jacksonville, Florida; Austin E. Griffiths, Former Justice of the Superior Court, Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Edward W. Bille, Carlisle, Pa.; J. C. Walsh, Publisher, New York City; Wm. C. Butterworth, President Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Meeting Board of Directors National Recreation Association

The White House, Washington, D. C.

April 13, 1931

I AM glad to welcome the directors of the National Recreation Association at the White House on this occasion. The Association was organized at the White House twenty-five years ago, and it is a most fitting place for your twenty-fifth anniversary meeting.

"I have followed the work of the Association for many years. It has taken a most significant and a magnificent part in the whole recreational development of the country. Its work today is of increasing importance because of the growing congestion of cities, on one hand, and the increasing leisure of our people, on the other. The whole recreational movement is one not only vital to public health, but it is vital to public welfare. The growing congestion of the cities presents constantly new problems of physical and moral and mental training of children, on one hand, and the growing leisure by shortened hours of labor presents increasing problems in provision of opportunity for proper use of increasing leisure for adults. Many less problems in government arise which concern people while they are at work than

while they are at leisure. They do not often go to jail for activities when they are on their jobs. Most of our problems arise when the people are off of their job. Every progress in constructive recreation during leisure time not only improves health, but also more.

"The Federal government, during the period of the Association's activities and to a considerable degree due to the efforts of the Association, has developed in itself a great number of recreational activities. I assume that the growth of social aspects of government will increase the interest of the government in recreational questions, and we need the assistance of the Association in directing these policies. If there is anything that we can do to cooperate with the Association in any direction you will find a most hearty welcome to the views of the Association of every section of the government.

"I wish to express to you the most profound admiration that I hold for the work of the Association and to extend to you my best wishes for its future development."—Herbert Hoover,

President of the United States

The White House Anniversary Meeting

ON April 13, twenty-five years and a day after the founding of the Playground Association of America, the board of directors of the National Recreation Association met for three hours in the historic cabinet room of the White House. With obvious warmth and enthusiasm, President Hoover addressed them with the notable statement printed on the opposite page. The President's address and the board's meeting in the White House practically duplicated a scene on April 12, 1906, when the founders of the association held one of their organization meetings in the same spot on the invitation of President Theodore Roosevelt.

The anniversary program included a review of the association's work and the progress of public recreation within the past twenty-five years, a discussion of present day needs in recreation in America, and the laying of plans for service during the next twenty-five years. Brief addresses by Secretary Adams of the Navy Department, Secretary Wilbur of the Department of the Interior, and F. Trubee Davison, Assistant Secretary of War for Aeronautics, representing the War Department, appreciatively related the services of the association to the national government.

After President Hoover's address which took place immediately after the group assembled, Joseph Lee, president of the association since 1910, briefly reviewed the early days of the organization, and pointed out the immense opportunity facing public recreation today. In part he said, "Leisure for everybody, a condition we in America are now approaching, is the most extraordinary chance ever granted to a nation. It means the coming of something unheard of in all history—the opportunity for every man to live."

The progressive shortening of the weekly work period has afforded workers more free time, stated Dr. John H. Finley, associate editor of the *New York Times*, listing changes in contemporary life which are affecting recreation. "There is less labor on the farm and more work in the factory. With the rapidly increasing use of machinery, less of the worker goes into his work, but there is greater nervous tension and more need for recreational release. . . . Daylight saving in our cities has made it easier for workers to take time for recreation." He pointed to a greater modern need of good sportsmanship, because of "the tremendous

power which is now being put into men's hands not only mechanically but also in the way of control over the destinies of their fellow men."

Contrasting conditions in 1906 when the association was founded with those of today, Otto Mallery said that the play of the child of 1906 was tolerated rather than encouraged. "It is now recognized as a municipal responsibility," he stated, and cited the case of Philadelphia which he said, "Has one hundred more playgrounds and spends half a million dollars more per year for play and recreation than it did twenty-five years ago."

National Endowment Needed

William C. Butterworth, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, presented a number of resolutions passed by the board. The principal one, calling attention to the huge annual crime bill of the United States, the increase of diseases of the heart and nervous system under the strain of modern life, the mounting burden of insanity, the numbers of children killed each year by automobiles on the streets and highways, the annual toll of juvenile delinquency and the health needs of American childhood reported at the recent White House Conference on Child Health and Protection, reaffirmed a previous resolution of the association voicing the need of "a foundation or limited period endowment of not less than \$10,000,000.00 for the National Recreation Movement."

Robert Lassiter, of Charlotte, N. C., whose paper was submitted in his absence, seconded the need for endowments to permit research in the field of recreation. "If there is any subject which it is important for men to know about," he stated, "it is recreational living, what activities have been found really to give permanent satisfaction."

The association's services to the War, Navy, Labor, and Agricultural Departments of the national government were pointed out by Gustavus T. Kirby, treasurer of the association. "The association is giving the personal service of field workers to more than 400 local and municipal governments," he said, also citing its cooperation with thirty-five state departments of education in physical education and the extensive rural training courses. J. C. Walsh declared that the field work-

(Continued on page 98)

Trends in Recreation Service

By V. K. Brown

*Superintendent Playgrounds and Sports
South Park System, Chicago*

Beyond the old objectives of health and safety, recreation service has set new goals for human expression.

TRENDS, like larger patterns in a landscape, are distinguishable only from a remote point of view. Attempting to review trends of today is necessarily, therefore, a venture in detachment, in boarding an airplane, figuratively, and surveying the familiar from a distance. In that venture one person's views are worth no more than another's. If your observations differ, I have no quarrel with you. My father often remarked that I was always positive, and sometimes right. Here I may not be right at all, and I am moved to appear positive only because in our work, long experience in visualizing the events we plan, and checking the fore-visioned against the later actual, lends training to our imaginations. That alone gives me assurance in undertaking, now, an appraisal which might be done with confidence only fifty years hence.

For youthful trends, not ancient and mediaeval, but modern trends, are an aloof lot. They do not welcome intimates. In their declining years they may acknowledge bowing acquaintance with historians; but no ordinary person ever gets on terms of familiarity with them until after they have been gathered to their rewards. In their active careers there's a divinity that hedges them about with majesty. They break a path across our effort, scorn alike our purposes and our dig-



Courtesy Recreation Department, East Orange, N. J.

Baseball is a hardy and flourishing on playgrounds.

nities, trample our idols, and haughtily refuse to entertain protest. "Looking on King Tut today the lowliest can say in an offhand, intimate way, "Ah, there. How's things, Old Top?" But could he have done so during Tut's reign? I think it doubtful.

A Series of Trends

Assuming such a nonchalant attitude, however, as if on terms of easy familiarity with every trend extant today, even at the risk of being too majestic, the first one that claims attention, to my own way of thinking, is the trend toward studying and experimenting in recreation service. We are attempting what might almost be called a research attack, working out techniques of control and trying to assay results, in most of the major systems of recreation service, and in many of the minor systems, to a degree unforeseeable a few years back. I think it distinctly a sign of the times in our work.

Of course, that attitude had its causes. It does not stand alone. It harks back to a parent, and that to another antecedent tendency, in turn, and trends have ancestors. Its most immediate forerunner is the trend toward more refined and better adjusted technique in the attack on the problems in general. Broadly stated, it is the purpose to achieve better workmanship, all around, with better trained personnel, more attention to considerations of culture and the establishment of backgrounds, better artistry. I think

that an unmistakable present trend, the one which fathered the study phase.

That trend, too, follows from a cause. Its parent, in turn, is the trend toward a more comprehensive program, designed to serve all sorts of people in our communities—to encompass every recreational interest insofar as possible. Program building has become of vital importance. Once haphazard, it has become precise; restricted at first, it has been reaching toward inclusiveness. To include all sorts of specialization, it led naturally to the mastery of techniques, and the abandonment of superficial and smattering knowledge of the various subjects of interest.

Again, this trend traces its origin to a forerunner, and that, I think, is the trend toward more clearly defined objectives.

Finally, the trend in our objectives descended from a still earlier trend in the philosophy of the whole recreation movement, to bring it down to practical terms and every-day applications, to serve the needs of present life.

Discussing these trends, it is better to start with the more fundamental, working toward the particular. I shall therefore elaborate on them in reverse order from that in which I have listed them here.

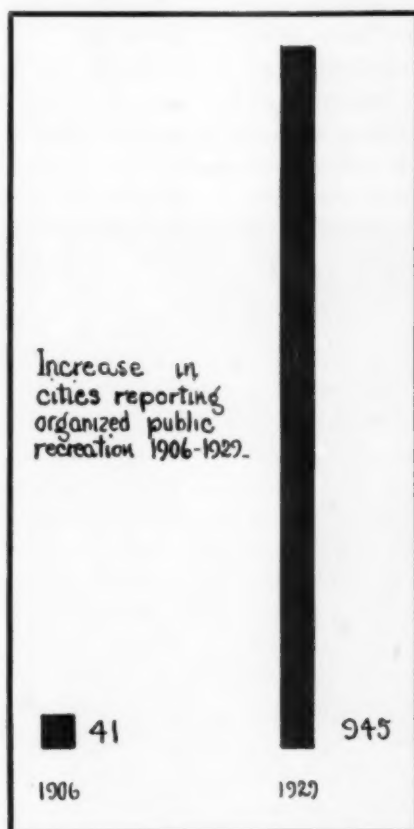
The Trend in Our Philosophy

Our concepts in the field of recreation have been maturing. We were rather naive at first, thinking a mineral spring the fountain of youth. Romantic optimism prevailed not alone in the field of recreation, a quarter century ago. The critical attitude, in faith and statecraft, education and sociology, has greatly grown in our time. When Jacob Riis inspected the ten new community centers of the South Park System, here in Chicago, in 1905, his eyes glowed at gymnasiums, swimming pools, halls, and acres of playfields surrounding each group of buildings. "Now," the eastern humanitarian exclaimed, "now I'm ready to die!" Here at last

was magic. Here community life would be vitalized, ennobled, by an uplift emanating from the people themselves. Here was the answer, the Doorway to Millennium. Not into ploughshares were swords reshaped, but into machinery to do our work for us. Conflict was ended, and labor.

In the first glow of those early enthusiasms we all felt much the same confidence that in the community center we had invented an automatic device to shape individual and social destinies. Well, the years have brought us disillusionment—and wisdom. We now know that man is made for pursuit, and has still a long preparation to undergo before he can be trusted with fulfillment. We realize that he needs struggle, a taste of triumph, and then struggle again. And for ourselves we want tools, yes, but tools which demand work on our part to make them function; we ask the boon not of watching idly while mechanisms perform our tasks for us, but rather of laboring till the work of our hands, taking form from the thing we planned, be at last established, and we experience the satisfaction that creators have always known since the Divine Creator, completing the orderly universe, looked it over, and called it good—and turned to work again!

This change in viewpoint literally saved our souls, I believe. We were all evangelists of a new order, in those early days, possibly dubious about the new heaven, but confidently announcing the new earth. Old things were passed away. Perhaps it was fortunate, that apocalyptic ecstasy. The movement needed evangelists then; fervor was necessary, and faith, till results appeared. But it was our salvation that when they did appear we had progressed toward critical-mindedness. There were results, not universally lest we become complacent, but often enough to encourage, and still to challenge us—to demand that we master the how and the why, to be able to make them more general. By that process we came to the hidden and deeper values, and so our concepts grew.





Recreation leaders today are trained for thought as well as activity. Above is the 1931 class of the National Recreation School, which has prepared 137 college graduates for recreation work since it opened in 1926 for one-year graduate courses.

For we have grown more studious; we take our job more seriously. At that early day we heard constantly about the "Play Spirit." Recent conferences have not employed the term. We were exhorted to cultivate a joyousness of behavior—a terrible task for those of us with stern New England ancestry—to affect spontaneous sprightliness of demeanor. Obediently we were grimly gleeful. We bear scars yet to witness how we suffered in some of those first orgies of unconfined joy. But we have changed that now to a purpose only to promote naturalness and sincerity in self-expression. I think we antedated the psychiatrists in recognizing the inner drives toward self-expression, and in realizing its importance to personality development, to mental, and even spiritual hygiene. On closer acquaintance with the stiffness and restraint which even then we recognized as the ghost at every banquet, we sensed that it was an inhibition. Not using that word, of course. The term was not epidemic yet, as it has since become.

We saw, too, that it was of the family of other inhibitions, that its cousins and aunts were equally kill-joys, although their specialties might be to gibber at us on other occasions. By degrees we came to sympathize with the universal passion for release, for freedom. Of late there has even come about an actual tolerance of those of us who are by nature solemn. I don't say that we are

sought out and cultivated, but I insist that we at least are no longer coerced into proclaiming "I'm a little prairie flower" when all of

our cravings are to remain violets by mossy stones. Oh, the evidences of this particular trend are all about us.

Reasonably early, then, we came to the conclusion that everyone is entitled to his own personality, that he has probably done something to earn it. And the whole of our thinking and subsequent doing has been profoundly influenced by that fundamental concept. It was a fertile trend, a parent trend. It has a numerous progeny.

The Trend in Our Objectives

One of them has changed our purposes—"switched goals on us." It made us scrap our moulds and dies, discard our passion for a ready-made humanity, and concede, a grudging bit at first, but gradually more and more, to the discriminating who want custom-built personalities. Our jobs at once became more involved, which was painful enough until we found them, by that much, more interesting. Up to that time we had thought in terms of health, and relaxation, and safety. Wholesomeness had been our watchword, escape from the perils of back-lot or alley, exercise wisely administered, sociability under safeguards, release from tensions of the working day, playing in imitation of life anticipating real

life; these were our early purposes. But there has been a trend toward an enlargement, or shall we say a deepening, of these objectives, as we saw our way more clearly. Health came to new meanings, not merely bodily vigor, muscular coordinations, organic functioning; it took on in addition something of the significance the mental hygiene people now attach to it, the serenities based on a consciousness of balanced living, the confidence in one's capacities to do, or to become, the self respect arising from recognized accomplishment.

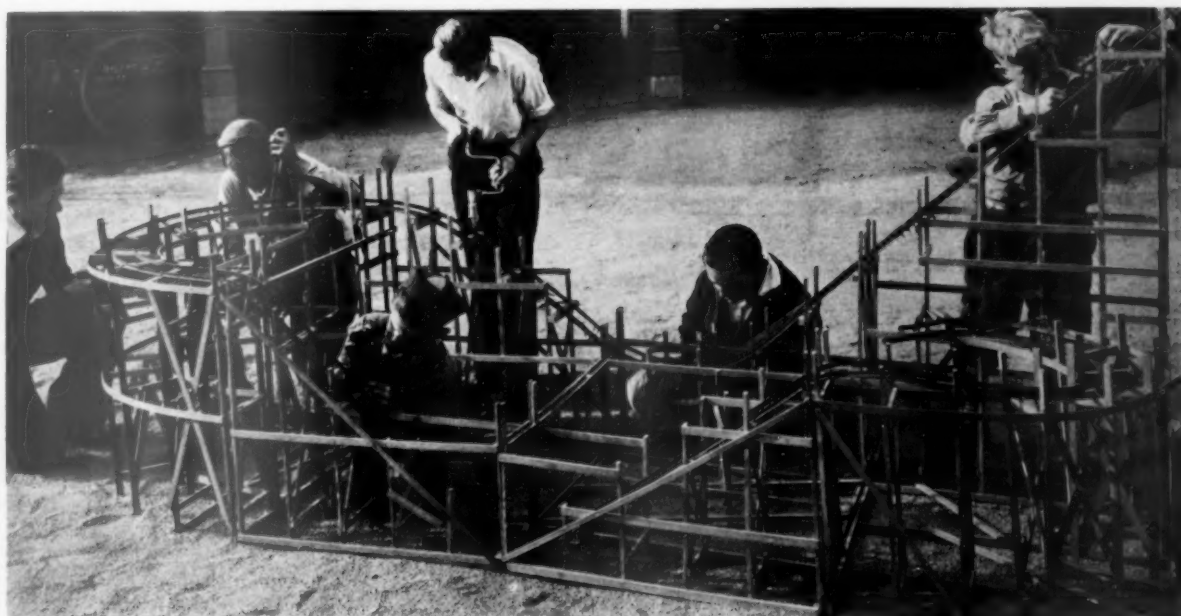
We discovered, early, the widespread desire to win applause and social approval; even yet we are more aware than any other group I know about,—educators, psychiatrists, psychologists,—of the tremendous part which the pursuit of status, among one's fellows, plays in life. And we were, I think, among the first to observe how ambitions discipline people, how the athlete, or artist, or aspirant in any other field, voluntarily adopts spartan regimes, controls appetite and impulse, regulates his life, to make everything contribute to his progress toward the chosen end or goal. Certainly we have long differentiated between this sort of discipline, self-imposed and self-chosen discipline, and those disciplines inflicted upon an unwilling victim of a poverty stricken social state where want of freedom, of time, or of means, leads not into temptation. And observing that our ills, personal misadventure, social misdirection, and international tragedy, alike, have their origin not so often in human ignorance

as in human weakness, that impulse rather than faulty reasoning leads us astray, we have recently come to insist that any attempt to parallel in education the accepted culture of the intellect with a corresponding culture of the emotions will find probably its most immediate avenue for practical attack upon the problems involved in the enthusiasms and ideals, the drives and urges, of the leisure hour and its pursuits.

New Objectives Prevalent

Our objectives are moving over into new ground. Where we once were content to issue medals of award for signal accomplishment, and to consider victory a sufficient end in itself, in view of the striving and the sacrifice which made the victory possible, now we are concerned far more with the spiritual significances of that victory to the victor himself, to the steadying fact it represents to him—the fact, however later life may buffet him, that once at least, in a contest where he threw his whole self into the issue, in spite of opposition, fatigue, and difficulty, he fought through to triumph, and stood at the end unconquered and unconquerable. Long ago, we passed the point where we were interested exclusively in what people do in recreation; the trend is now to consider, as more vital, rather what the thing done itself does, in turn, to the doer of it.

This miniature scenic railway built and electrified by Los Angeles playground boys was a test of skills and ingenuity



The Trend in Our Program

Our programs reflected this concept, at once. We must attempt comprehensiveness. Keeping children busy no longer satisfied us. Busy at what? And to what ends? True, they were safer when busy; but was that two-per-cent yield a sufficient one on our investment? Did it represent a close enough approximation of the maximum possible return? We saw lives re-patterned, all about us, by the passion to achieve masteries. We watched gangs disintegrate as their mothering, protective adequacies were no longer needed when personal adequacies were attained—or were even held out as attainable. We saw their membership re-grouped about the magnetizing core of a common pursuit. One member might attach himself to the swimming fraternity, another was attracted to track athletics, a third to a model airplane group. They had begun to find themselves; real distinction appealed more strongly than the pseudo-distinction of the gang association, where, actual personality denied, they had been seeking a substitute, as close as possible, to the more desirable personal distinction, in group distinction. We saw personal confidence gained. And it occurred to us, overwhelming us at first, that in implanting and nurturing ambitions toward personal achievement we were contacting the very soul of life itself, coming as close to sacred ground as one ever comes, in dealing with the inner life of another. For we were serving only the hungers of men. Forced to school, impelled to church, tied to their families, they escaped to the recreation center. To us they came by choice; ours was the institution of freedom. The thing they did in our buildings was the thing desired. And if we could harness that desire, capture the energies of that lightning flash of choice, what wheels might we not set turning?

How to attract them? Most of the world's thinking comes from books. But the literature of our subject has been slow in arriving. What there was of it was helpful. Joseph Lee was thinking clearly; Jane Addams penetrated to the

very heart of youth. But we were without many books, and so we turned, for the most part, to life. And life revealed itself—its desires and its darings. Youth? The books are still discussing its sex and its morals. But in life—ah, that's different! Youth, in our time, has flung itself, fittingly, in the freedom of the skies, across oceans, and above the poles, and after throwing its gauntlet in the face of death itself, has come back like an eagle to a dove-cote with never a word about "fluttering the Voltians in Corioli!" The damning thing about our books is how little they know of life. We elders sit by the fire and write them, and flowing to their pages is the

weariness that has scored so deep in us, a weariness that makes us forget how even we once demanded combat and conquest, a bitter battle, after a worthy challenge, and only a vision of triumph in the end.

Learning from life, we first thought in terms of "types" — the "physical type," the "aesthetic type," the "social or gregarious type," the "creative type." It was great while it lasted. We merely pigeonholed our fellows, only to observe that the stubborn creatures wouldn't stay catalogued. They tumbled out into all

sorts of impossible re-assemblings, at the slightest jostle. In the end we achieved one thing, at least—a new and man-sized respect for the infinite variety of motives and interests which drive even the humblest of our fellows. And as purveyors to their demands, we were pushed from physical play into sports and competition, and then into social recreation, creative handcraft, and the arts; and the end of the broadening program is not even in sight.

Enter the "Taxpayer." He read our advertisements, listened to our bally-hoo, took us at our word, and wanted to know, if some were given golf, why he was denied a casting pool? If baseball was recognized, were we so blind as to overlook the superiorities of cricket? The loyalties of men to the sport of their devotion—a wonderful set of loyalties they are. They go beyond our present soundings and have pos-



Eighty-four per cent of the 1929 expenditure for public recreation was tax funds

sibilities we haven't yet started to explore, much less to exploit. Passionate devotion to the arts, the fierce espousal of the traditions and the codes of the thousand things to which people give their lives when in their leisure hours they really assume the captaincy of their souls,—who can deny such ardent championing? We are launched on a course which makes human cravings articulate. Our assumption of leadership, our profession of service, have taught them where to come. And, they are coming to audience. It has scarcely started, but the things men long to do have utterance, after all the centuries of silence. He would be presumptuous who dared say what will come of it.

But the trend is manifestly toward a more inclusive program.

The Trend in Our Technique

Programs, however, to throw a spark, must, like a dynamo, be operated. They profit us nothing otherwise. We soon saw also that events do not constitute a service. Playing football by no means indicates that the player is getting out of the game the things there, to be incorporated in him, if made available. And preaching them to the player is not an efficient process of getting them into the fibre and stuff that makes up himself. That is where the personal work of the coach comes into play; his personality projecting itself into the player, his guidance, the long grind of practice, the routine of life and impulse, the discipline voluntarily adhered to and continued, bearing a hopeful heart in defeat and a modest one in victory—these are the annealing processes which in the fulness of time burn out the carbons and make a tempered product. These became our task to engineer.

Because the heart of youth is contentious, we employed from the first, competition. But competition merely looses the whirlwind, unless controlled. We had early to set ourselves the long art of learning its control. The vehicles of control are still in the making, merit systems of scoring the three-part contract of the contender—that with his playing skill which demands that he do his utmost to win; that with his

opponent that he win in manly fashion stooping to no unworthy or unfair method in winning; and that with his followers that he accept the social obligations implied in his schedule to appear, at a certain place, at a certain hour, fit and attuned to give his utmost. These have been, and still are, matter for experiment, in treatment. There was also the problem of so organizing competition that it does not elevate only those already most proficient and dishearten the beginning aspirant for success. Lately, splitting sports into their constituent skills, and affording tests of those elements in the all round ability, we have been making progress in passing distinction around a constantly enlarging circle. We have also made progress in lending equal dignity to achievement in some of the less spectacular sports; crediting achievement in all the programmed competition to the institution represented, and carrying through the year a sustained competition thereby, we are making the prominent athlete lend the support of his encouragement and the backing of his prestige to the contender who is a team mate in effect, although, engaging in some minor activity on which the athlete might otherwise look with contempt as being worthy the attention of a soft and degenerate individual only. This technique has actually brought recognized champions in some of the most vigorous sports out to cheer on their playground representatives even in so effeminate an event as a kite tournament.

We do it because kite flying to the one whose heart is in it may be, for him, an avenue, to we know not what ultimate goals. Thomas Edison, the man, was once Tommy Edison, the lad.

"Life challenges us in different ways, but challenge us it does, and individually"



Courtesy Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Dept.

Something started him toward a distant horizon. We do not know yet the import of boyhood's earliest strivings. Travelling overseas with America's Olympic Team in 1928, I asked our team members whether any of their present eminence, each in his chosen specialty, traced back to a boyhood interest. Many thought not, at first, but going deeper into the coordinations which, perfected, had made them the nation's most skilled representatives, each at last harked back to something which he felt might have laid a foundation, at least, for his proficiencies.

Ours must be the technique which makes art possible for the one whose hungers demand art under penalty of a thwarted and unhappy life. And we must lead him into the fullness of art under the widest possible horizons, where he can be pointed toward its loftiest distant peaks, if the urge in him be so insistent that he must obey the call to go there, or permit his soul to die. It is of no significance to us whether that art be music, or drama, literature, sculpture, architecture—if voices in the night are urging him toward it, and other concerns in the day occupy his hours, then in the hours when he is free our problem is to help him. To one the call may summon toward the physical perfections of an ancient statue, to another it may indicate that an engine to do his will lies concealed in bits of wood and fragments of metal and he must hew it out and give it being. Life challenges us in different ways, but challenge us it does, and individually.

And ours is the province of encouraging response to those challenges, each in his own voice and manner. That is why we are insisting on broader culture and greater spread of appreciation, in our personnel, as well as upon better methods. The absence of standardized methods as yet is the best proof that we are working on this problem of technique. It shows that there is a trend toward refining of it to which we are all responding. Each system of recreation is pioneering in its own way, with its own means; the time for assembling and synthesizing into a standardized procedure is not yet; I trust we will not attempt that for years to come. There is still so much to learn, so much to create, that we must not trust our present views for a long time yet. Meantime, we are started, and I have no fear that we will not be kept busy.

The Trend in Our Studies

Research was a word almost never heard in our early gatherings. It is always with us now. And we are learning what it means. Our early inquiries as this trend got under way were of significance only as they indicated a new turn of mind in our attitude toward our job. They lacked everything, in precision, in method, in scientific objectivity, which they should have to justify themselves, or make their findings tenable even as hypotheses. We started with an inundation of questionnaires, and then we tried roughly to introduce the principle of experiment with control groups. We wanted mass studies, and thought if the procedure be clear enough that anyone might assemble the findings, and they would have a constant value. We went into preferences in activities, into memory of movies, into reading, and a number of other subjects, trying to trace curves and draw deductions from them.

And we have learned things—if only what real research means. I know of no system as yet which has a real research department, but there are several which are seriously considering the matter. Here in the South Parks we have several matters in mind—an experimental attempt with the University and its advice, to see what can be done with the recreation attack on some of the problems of the pre-school child, for one.

In purely physical measurement and observation we have fared better, largely because it is an easier field in which to set up criteria and processes.

But it is significant that we are keeping pace with the thought in older and better organized fields. The recent White House Conference, in each of its sections, came back over and over to the need for fact, determined by research. Our profession feels the same need. And any group is safer if it has deeply bedded in consciousness a studious attitude.

We trusted our feelings almost exclusively, a few years ago. Our work appealed to our emotions. Doubtless it does so still. But we are newly, and increasingly, conscious of our need of critical attitudes; we do not still consider the most extravagant declaimer the best friend of the recreation movement. In that we feel that we have made a gain of definite importance.

On the new trend toward scientific research, public recreation has barely embarked. But play leaders are increasingly conscious of their need not only for accurate studies, but for critical attitudes.



Amateur Arts in a Machine Age

By Chester Geppert Marsh

THE Recreation Movement is the twin sister of the Machine Age. Both are the children of Civilization. These children did not spring to life, Minerva-like, from the brain of their mighty parent, but, lusty and strong, they grew and developed from a twin babyhood of steam engines, electric lights and sand lot playgrounds to the present day of radios, aeroplanes, factories, electrically equipped homes and a consequent leisure filled with myriad interests planned and organized by trained recreation leaders.

Most encouraging is the readiness with which these leaders seize upon the problems presented to them by machine made leisure. They are sometimes slow to grasp the significance of the problems and sometimes they fail to realize the presence of the problems, but once realized, the fervor with which they strive to meet them is only equalled by the warm, human response of an eager public.

Twenty years ago we saw children deprived of play space—shady yards, barns, carriage houses, lazy streets, flowing gutters—the Recreation Movement in those days meant children's playgrounds. Later, we saw adolescent youth deprived of grassy ball fields, old swimming holes, romantic front porches, grape arbors and home parties. To playgrounds, therefore, were added athletic fields, swimming pools, and community houses.

Today, we find ourselves faced with adult leisure, adult hunger for interests—deep human interests that motivate daily life and make that life richer and fuller. No longer does the home provide opportunity for creative endeavor and



Courtesy Westchester Workshop

Park landscapes invite Westchester County's amateur sketch groups

physical activity. The homely chores have vanished. We should not mourn them. We should rejoice that the pump, the woodshed, oil lamps, bread baking, buttonholes, and hitching Old Dobbin to the chaise no longer claim our time, energy and interest. Machinery, thank Heaven, has released us from these enforced activities and given us time to develop interests that we may freely choose.

As soon as we realize this, as soon as we accept the fact that we do have leisure for the things we really want to do, as soon as we understand that we do not have to keep up with the revolutions of the wheels and that we are actually free to choose our interests—then we have taken the first step toward the great and, I believe, imminent American Renaissance.

The problem of the new adult leisure gives to recreation leaders the greatest challenge of their careers. Their vision must not be limited since there is no limit to the possibilities before them. They must keep up with the demands and needs of a public whose discrimination is educated and refined by the radio and the silver screen. This public is no longer satisfied with watching life. It wants to live. It has an insatiable curiosity about everything—an eager desire to try everything. This public is no longer satisfied with

baseball bats, golf clubs, and swimming suits. It has tried all of these, found them satisfactory, but not wholly satisfying. It now wants musical instruments, paint brushes, wet clay, writing materials, stages and appreciative audiences.

Music, drama and the arts are occupying an ever increasing place in the recreation program. This is as it should be. These are interests that last as long as life lasts. They are limitless, developmental, and satisfying.

During the past ten years, recreation commissions in all parts of the United States have organized choral groups, orchestras, bands, concerts and music festivals. In Westchester County, the annual Music Festival is not a single sporadic event. Each festival is the culmination of a year's intense activity—the result of the combined efforts of twenty-three different community choral groups. These groups enjoy the rehearsals not only of the festival music but weekly rehearsals of from three to four local concerts each. Thus in one county alone, the adult participation in musical events, including the Negro Spiritual Singers, numbers several thousand singers and more than a hundred concerts.

Community drama and the Little Theatre movement have not only provided rich, vital interests to adults—they have had a very definite effect upon the quality of play produced by the commercial theatre. It has been noticeable that during the past three years, the long run plays on Broadway have been those that were wholesome and human.

The drama opens many doors to recreational interests. Acting, producing, play reading, play writing, stage setting, costume design, lighting, tournaments, and best of all, group companionship and common interests.

The graphic arts have but lately been accorded a place in the recreation program. For some years handicraft has been taught on the playgrounds but arts and crafts for adults is an innovation of the past three years. Westchester County has been making an experiment in this field known as the Westchester Workshop. Divided into three departments, the Workshop offers opportunity for creative activity and research in the crafts, the arts and in nature study.

The response to this experiment has proved the need. In the six months of the Workshop's

existence, the monthly attendance has grown to 1800 and is steadily increasing. Inquiries and requests pour in daily and it is impossible for the small staff to meet the demands made upon it.

Schools, both private and public, organization leaders, men's and women's clubs are making use of the Workshop classes. These classes are attended by business men, tired and retired, shop girls, clerks, industrial workers, housewives who are tired of bridge, mothers who studied art in their youth and "haven't touched a brush since the children came," school teachers and professional men and women.

The classes are conducted on a purely recreational basis, to en-

courage the joy of creative activity. The leaders are not so much interested in the thing created as they are in the person creating. There are all day sketching trips, exhibits, classes in painting, design, cartooning, in weaving, leather tooling, bookbinding, wood carving, metal craft, jewelry making, chair caning, basketry, batik and other crafts. In nature study, there are field trips, lectures, camera clubs, classes in map making, exhibits, and even

(Continued on page 102)

**A modern world still
hears the pipes of make-
believe.**



Courtesy Playground Commission, San Francisco, Calif.

Growing Importance of Recreation in City Planning



Courtesy Radburn Association, Radburn, N. J.

A successful park and playground system must relate to the city plan, says Mr. Nolen, a pioneer in designing neighborhoods that provide attractively for recreation of all age groups.

Recreation Planning

By John Nolen

City Planner, Cambridge, Massachusetts

THE early towns and cities in the United States gave no thought to the problems of recreation. It was not necessary. Those cities were not crowded; their streets were not menaced by the motor vehicle; their blocks were not entirely built-up. There were many vacant lots where the child might play, or if he desired, he might consider the street his play area, his baseball diamond or his skating rink. But fortunate for him the chief means of getting about was some form of animal transportation. He romped and played in comparative safety.

The next period might be considered the most far-reaching because it is the nucleus of our present park and playground system. In this period industry was revolutionized; economic as well as social conditions were changing. It was an age of great reforms and of increasing wealth. All of these factors led to an interest in parks and playgrounds. Public spirited citizens began

to give land to the city for recreational purposes. They did not, however, supply the much needed funds to carry out the work. It remained for the municipal government to raise the funds and to develop the park and playground. This they were seldom able to do. The land remained often in its original state, a playground in name only.

Gradually people began to realize that the city was becoming densely populated. The laissez-faire system of recreation was archaic. Another period was in sight. No longer were there vacant lots. The automobile had made its permanent appearance. The old laws were no longer applicable to modern economic and social conditions. They justly accused their municipal governments of weakness. Money was being spent for recreation, but unwisely. Some parts of the city were served with play areas while other parts were utterly neglected. Naturally, people, inspired by outstanding leaders in this work, began to feel that city planning and correct recreational facilities were closely affiliated. Just as a City Plan is

not complete without adequate park and playground area, neither is a Park System a success unless it has been carefully considered in relation to the City Plan. Thus was evolved our modern conception of the importance of recreation in city planning.

We shall now turn to the various types of recreation facilities included in the Modern Comprehensive City Plan and consider them from an ideal point-of-view.

Types of Facilities

The first group to consider is that of small children, those under five years of age. If, in single family house districts, proper areas have been allowed for yard spaces, there will be no necessity for providing special play areas for this group of children. If, however, the district is so congested that yard play areas are quite impossible, the city planner has an alternative in the interior block playground. This arrangement is very valuable for small children because they are not required to cross streets to reach it. The most common type of recreation provision for the very young is a special area set aside for them in the playground of the elder children, and in neighborhood playfield areas. Perhaps no feature is more popular on a summer day for the very young than the wading pool. The most successful type is the circular pool of varying depth but generally not over eighteen inches at the deepest point. If, however, the outdoor swimming facilities are limited, the wading-swimming pool may be used to advantage. This type is best constructed to a uniform depth sufficient for swimming. Part of the day it may be used as a wading pool and then it may be filled to a greater depth and used as a swimming pool by the older ones.

The largest group of children are those between the ages of five and fourteen years. This group averages about 22 per cent of the total population of the community and consequently much attention must be given to their recreational facilities. "Probably playground areas for this group," writes Mr. L. H. Weir in his article on "Standards in Planning for Recreation Areas," "should be as numerous as the grade schools and junior high schools and their distribution should coincide with the distribution of these schools." More and more, people are beginning to realize that to have playgrounds connected with elementary and junior high schools is to economize in both money and space. Schools in the ideal com-

munity are located within walking distance of the pupils' homes. This distance should preferably be not greater than one-quarter to one-half mile from the school. This same walking distance is desirable for playgrounds. It therefore seems logical to correlate or combine the two areas. Of course, this may be impracticable in the already built-up city because of too little vacant space in proximity to the school grounds. However, if it is possible to obtain land, the size of the joint area, according to the Annual Recreation Congress of the National Recreation Association, should be a minimum total area of eight acres for elementary schools and a minimum total from ten to twenty acres for junior high schools.

Neighborhood Playfields

It is for the older boys and girls, the youth of today, that neighborhood playfield areas have been planned chiefly. It is quite evident that the designing of these is more complex than the designing of playgrounds because of the greater variety of facilities to be provided and because of the greater range of ages. Here are played any number of outdoor games, such as volley ball, basket ball, tennis, baseball, football, soccer and others. It is therefore difficult to lay down any hard and fast rule as to the size of these areas. They vary throughout the United States. Some are as small as three or four acres while others contain as many as a hundred acres.

The growing interest in the United States in recreation for the young has naturally stimulated an interest in recreation for adults. We now appreciate the fact that outdoor recreation is absolutely necessary for the welfare of both young and old. For this reason existing municipal golf courses, reservations, parkways and sports centers are being expanded and new ones provided to meet the constantly enlarging and increasing needs of a changing social order—a society in which urbanization and mechanization have combined to create many problems and to demand new and varied avenues of expression.

To carry these varied recreational facilities to a satisfactory completion, it is quite obvious that the city must have a logical plan. Municipalities complicated in structure and functions must turn to the City Plan for advice. It is only through the cooperation of the city planner, playground specialist and the city official that the municipality can be assured of recreational facilities which will satisfactorily meet the needs of the entire city.

How It Began

By Henry S. Curtis, Ph.D.

The need to train leaders inspired the first meeting of the play pioneers, who, the next year, formed a national body.

DURING the winter of 1905 I called together in New York City a group of people consisting of Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, Supt. Seth T. Stewart, Supt. Schauffler, James B. Reynolds, Miss Curtis, Supervisor of Kindergartens, Miss Jessie Bancroft, Supervisor of Physical Education, and one or two others to consider the question of organizing a course for the training of those who were working in the playgrounds.

This group held three meetings in the Spring and Fall of that year. On November 3, 1905, Dr. Gulick and I were discussing the matter in his room in Emerson Hall and concluded that the attempt would not succeed at present and had better be dropped. At that time he suggested that we organize a National Playground Association.

After a short discussion this seemed very desirable and Dr. Gulick wrote by hand a letter to Joseph Lee asking if he would join with us in the organization of an association and if he would accept the Presidency. Both of us signed this letter.

Mr. Lee suggested that there were already many associations and that we should become a committee of the American Civic Association.

After some further discussion we decided, however, to go ahead with the organization of an association. Dr. Gulick asked me to make out a list of those who, I thought, should be the organizers of the association, which I did. I also wrote each of them and saw the majority per-



Theodore Roosevelt, ardent disciple of outdoor sport, advised the Association's founders in 1906 to give children a large measure of freedom in their play.

sonally, asking if they would come to an organization meeting in Washington in the Spring.

In February, 1906, I became the Supervisor of Playgrounds of the District of Columbia, working with the Associated Charities of the District. Mr. Charles Weller was Secretary of the Association and Wallace Hatch was assistant. In the final arrangement for the organization meeting, which came on the 6th of April, both were very helpful.

With Mr. Weller's help I raised the funds that were necessary for the organization meeting and myself wrote the Constitution which was submitted and adopted without change, except that the name was changed from National Playground Association to Playground Association of America at the suggestion of Dr. Gulick. I wrote into the Constitution that the Association should hold an annual Play Congress, and that it should publish a magazine to be known as "The Playground." These suggestions came to me largely from the Central Game Committee of Germany.

The first meeting was held in the Y. M. C. A. at Washington. In the early afternoon, the dele-

(Continued on page 106)

Early Days of the Playground Association of America

By Howard Braucher

Secretary, National Recreation Association

ON April 12, 1906, the first organization meeting of the Playground Association of America was held in the Y. M. C. A. at Washington, D. C. Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick of New York City was elected President of the organization, Dr. Henry S. Curtis was elected Secretary and Seth T. Stewart, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Some time prior to the Chicago Play Congress held in June, 1907, President Roosevelt had agreed to serve as Honorary President and Jacob Riis had agreed to serve as Honorary Vice-President. The fact that Jacob Riis and President Roosevelt were willing to lend their influence, helped greatly throughout the country.

The following individuals were present at the organization meeting held on April 12, 1906:

Sadie American, Mrs. Samuel Ammon, William H. Baldwin, Henry S. Curtis, Mary E. McDowell, Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, Walter Hatch, Archibald Hill, Amelia Hofer, Marie Ruef Hofer, Beulah Kennard, Dr. George M. Kober, Commissioner H. S. MacFarland, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, Myron T. Scudder, Seth T. Stewart, Dr. Rebecca Stonerod, and Charles F. Weller.

Other individuals active in the work of the Association during the first year according to the minutes were:

Mrs. Tunis Bergen, Howard Bradstreet, William Hamlin Childs, George W. Ehler, Joseph Lee, Mrs. Mary Simkhovitch, James G. Phelps



The founders at Washington. The policies they shaped have proved sound through the years.

Stokes, and Felix Warburg.

Jacob Riis was very proud that his name was on the letterheads of the Association, side by side with the name of his intimate personal friend, President Theodore Roosevelt. Jacob Riis was always ready to do anything in his power to help the new organization. His bubbling enthusiasm and his deep and abiding faith

in what play could do for his adopted country was an inspiration for all who came in contact with him.

Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick took up his position as President of the Association with enthusiasm displaying great energy and resourcefulness. Dr. Gulick's personal qualities were such, his ability as a

speaker, his vividness of description at private interviews, his unflinching enthusiasm, all were such that the new movement made a very great appeal to the country. Dr. Gulick himself in public

(Continued on page 103)



Dr. Seth Thayer Stewart, first editor of "The Playground"

Early Days



The national staff in the days when everybody did anything. Abbie Condit is fifth from the left in row one. Howard S. Braucher is in the foreground, with James Edward Rogers and Arthur Williams directly to his right. The first at the left in the back row is Lebert H. Weir, the fourth from the left C. F. Stimson.



Delegates to the 1908 Playground Congress off to inspect New York City's parks and playgrounds. Joseph Lee, elected President in 1910, is in the second seat in the second row.

Speaking of Recreation

LONG, long ago it was said, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," yet the old axiom is just as true today as ever, and whether the boy is six months, six years, or I might even say sixty years old, without recreation he cannot be the well rounded character which is so necessary for either boy or girl, man or woman at any time, but especially in our complex life today.

We all agree that there is no greater factor in the development of a child's character than play. How quickly and easily he learns through the "rules of the game" (as he never would through advice or "preaching") what it is to be a good sport, to play fair, to take defeat cheerfully and manfully, and victory with modesty and joy! He learns team work and how to give to the thing in hand the best that is in him. Many other worthwhile lessons are his before he realizes it,—things that may, perhaps, help him to make a living; certainly they help to make a life.

The National Recreation Association has been going forward through the years proposing "that everybody in America, young or old, shall have an opportunity to find the best and most satisfying use of leisure time," and more and more are we seeing the wisdom of this high ideal and how splendidly the organization is moving towards its accomplishment. I am placing the contribution of this Association to American life among the foremost in the nation, and on this, its twenty-fifth birthday, am wishing for it many more years of useful service to the people of this country.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. JOHN F. SIPPEL,

President, General Federation of Women's Clubs.



Mrs. John F. Sippel

PERHAPS among the greatest development of modern civilization is the non-profit organization which works interestedly and at its own expense for the good of the community. None, in

my opinion, fills a greater or more useful sphere than the National Recreation Association. It embodies the great modern concept that proper recreation, properly indulged in, is as necessary an attribute to effective, decent work as food or sleep. Far too often the com-

munity thinks of play as play, and nothing else, not realizing that it is a necessity and has productive value. Right here in Porto Rico we do not have recreational opportunities. We



Theodore Roosevelt

have not proper parks, we have not proper athletic fields, we have not proper organizations to give our young people a grounding in health-building and character-building outdoor recreation that they should have. This is normal, for we are so concerned now with the bare problem of existence for many of them,—obtaining the food necessary to keep soul and body together, obtaining medicines to check the ravages of disease, that we have had but scant time to turn to other matters. We are, however, doing what we can, and I am counting on the aid of the National Outdoor Recreation Association to help us in this work.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
Governor of Porto Rico.

FOR the past ten years it has been my privilege to have direct interest in and contact with the work of the National Recreation Association, and to have received help and inspiration from its wise administration and its

stimulating activities. It is a great pleasure to join the host of its friends on this "silver" anniversary in congratulating the association upon a quarter of a century of notable achievement, of truly national service, and in wishing it increasing success in its prog-

ress toward the "golden" celebration of 1956.

As editor for seven years of a national magazine, and as president for five of those years of the organization of which it was the voice, the generous and complete cooperation received from the then Playground and Recreation Association of America made possible the introduction of recreation to thousands to whom it had previously been but an unfamiliar word. Now as director of the rural work of the same organization for child welfare, the need, not only for the continuance of this cooperation but for its extension throughout the rural field is strikingly evident to me. The country calls for leadership in recreation, but equally will it profit by the discovery and development of local ability in that line—in other words, for the professional training of the rural volunteer.

From the whole international field comes the call for such service as the National Recreation Association is offering, and to you we look confidently for that practical idealism which will teach the world how to make wise use of its leisure.

MARGARETTA WILLIS REEVE

President, International Federation of Home and School.



Mrs. A. H. Reeve

Mr. Joseph Lee,
Pres., National Recreation Association,
New York City.

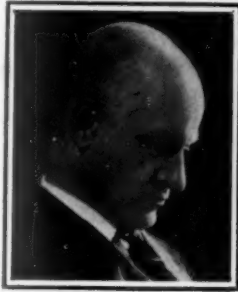
DEAR Joe:

In leading this country as far and as fast as it could be dragged towards playfulness in the last quarter century you've done far more than increase our fun. You have brought us appreciably nearer to Jesus' command that we become as little children,—even in the cities where we do all we can in other ways to cancel the child-like and child-loving side of our lives. You have done much toward debunking our solemn pseudo-scientific psychology most of which is in fact the shadow of our dulness. When you preside over a meeting or write a circular or make an address even the forms of pompous procedure get cracked and bent into sincerity,—for you have done much to show that our stupid formalities are not only dull but fraudulent. People pretend to be solemn and imposing because they are so low spirited and can cover it up most successfully by being "serious."

Art and play are miles apart, I think, but you have managed successfully to smuggle in under the guise of play a lot of good art which people never would have taken to under its own name. That was, I guess, one of your little jokes, like that other pretty little trick of yours,—calling work a subvariety of play. Certainly you have put it over on us and made us a far less staid and grave generation than the previous. In your next quarter-century I fully expect to see you prove that the Harvard Law School and the Mass. Historical Society are in fact only gigantic play-houses where men play hide and seek with precedents and hunt the colonial slipper. More power to your dancing mind. Can't you start a society for the cultivation of play among economists and psychologists. If you could slip in a mustard seed's worth of humor into these laborious groups your generation would crown you afresh.

Affectionately,

RICHARD C. CABOT
President, National Conference
of Social Work.



Richard C. Cabot

National Recreation Association,
315 Fourth Ave.,
New York City.

THE splendid work which has been done by your organization is worthy of highest commendation and to you, on your 25th anniversary, may I present the hearty appreciation of the

National Congress of Parents and Teachers. We, who have received splendid cooperation from you and your officers extend our congratulations and thanks.

The Parent-Teacher Association are deeply grateful for the stimulation given for the recreational

activities of their groups. We believe in your philosophy of living, and feel that it is helping us greatly to have happier homes and more wholesome communities.



Mrs. Minnie B. Bradford

May the cooperation between our national organizations long continue, and may your success in the future, as in the past, bear fruit in the homes and communities of our nation.

Cordially yours,

MRS. MINNIE B. BRADFORD,
President, National Congress
of Parents and Teachers.

THE American Legion has been fortunate to have the continuous cooperation of the National Recreation Association in the youth activities which the Legion sponsors and promotes. The progress of this Legion program can be credited in a great part to the influence extend-

National Recreation Association,
315 Fourth Ave.,
New York City.

RECREATION is essential to physical and mental health and well being. As modern life is organized, the average individual depends in a large degree upon public recreation services, administered in the interests of the public.

Such services should provide for the recreational services of all ages and all interests. No education is complete that does not help the individual to find constructive uses for leisure, and it is the function of recreation services to enable individuals

and groups to have opportunities for following their interests.

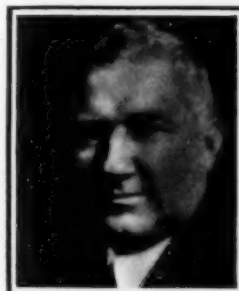
The American Federation of Labor has found it most satisfactory to cooperate with the National Recreation Association for the establishment of recreation opportunities where all might have equal opportunity and consideration.

Recreation and leisure may be powerful forces for physical and spiritual regeneration and for keeping the tide of life running eagerly and constructively all the way.

WILLIAM GREEN
President,
American Federation of Labor.

We realize afresh that it is the business of youth to reaffirm the beauty and joy in the world that such spontaneity may become a source of new vitality, a wellspring of refreshment to a jaded city.

JANE ADDAMS.



Ralph T. O'Neil

ed by the national association to induce local recreation departments and other groups in such endeavors to work in behalf of the Legion's junior baseball plans and playgrounds efforts. The association has been instrumental in helping the Legion
(Cont'd on page 109)

Play and Printers' Ink

By Abbie Condit

National Recreation Association

THE other day I visited the oculist. One of the questions he asked in the course of the examination was, "In what year were you born?" When I answered promptly and without trace of wrath or irritation, he heaved a sigh of relief and said "Asking that question is the hardest thing I have to do." Said I, "You needn't have been nervous about asking me that. When you have been working for one organization for twenty years there's no use trying to pretend you are sweet sixteen."

One privilege the aged can claim is that of reminiscing.

Looking back twenty years, I remember first of all the small group of workers occupying a limited space in the metropolitan building. There was one room, reasonably large, for the staff. Adjoining it was a smaller room which served as the secretary's office. A stock room completed our suite. There were perhaps a half dozen workers. There were no "departments" in those days; specialization was unknown. We all did the things which had to be done, whatever they happened to be and each of us had a varied assortment of tasks. Often we all stayed late mailing the letters of appeals which were to bring us the funds for the much needed field secretary. And our labors were rewarded, for eventually that first field secretary came, and then a second and a third—and an important milestone had been passed.

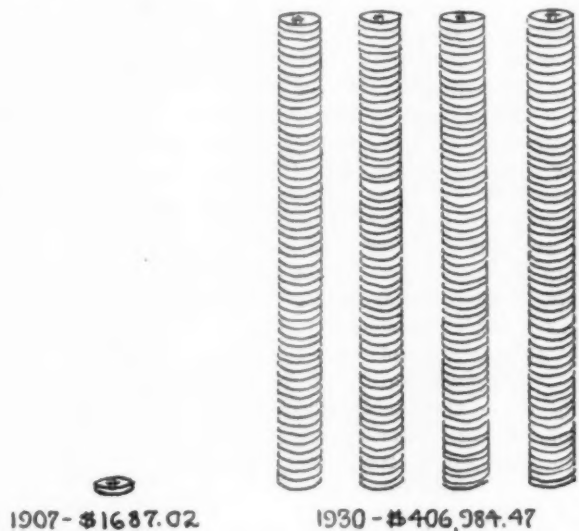
Recollections of those early days bring back vividly the picture of Dr. Luther Gulick, the first president of the Playground Association. Dr. Gulick, who was then associated with the Russell Sage Foundation, had become greatly interested in the theory that as long as air was kept in circulation there was no reason whatever for having fresh air. The Playground Association became his research station, and he would hermetically seal all our windows, start the electric fans, and return occasionally to see how many of us were surviving!

The literature which the Association issued in those days could not be called profuse, but it has stood the test of time. There were at first pamphlets, few in number, but far flung in their use and influence. Joseph Lee's *Play and Playgrounds*; George E. Johnson's *Games Every Boy and Girl Should Know*; Allen T. Burns' *Relation of Playgrounds to Juvenile Delinquency*; *Can a Child Survive Civilization?* by Dr. Woods Hutchinson; Joseph Lee's *Home Playground*; *Why We Want Playgrounds*, by Charles Evans Hughes; George E. Johnson's *Why Teach a Child to Play?* these are a few of the addresses from the first Recreation Congresses which in pamphlet form aided many

local groups in focusing attention on the need for playgrounds. There are playgrounds in the country which owe their ex-

The Association's expenditure was 241 times greater in 1930 than in its first year, 1907.

(Cont. on page 108)



Drumming for Playgrounds

The first salesman of recreation points some contrasts.

By Lee F. Hanmer
Russell Sage Foundation

"**A**PPROPRIATE government money to teach children to play! Why don't you ask for an appropriation to teach fishes to swim?" That was the comment of a U. S. Congressman back in the dark ages when we began to propose that children's playgrounds be provided and supervised at public expense. It is a far cry in playground history from that day to this—41 communities having some sort of playgrounds then, chiefly supported by private contribution; and about 1,000 now, largely provided by public appropriations. The National Recreation Association was just beginning then as the Playground Association of America with one lone field secretary, dubbed "the playground drummer," and borrowed from the Russell Sage Foundation. Now the Association has a force of fourteen field secretaries and specialists in games, dramatics, music, home recreations, play in institutions, rural recreation, athletics for girls and women, play areas in real estate subdivisions, play and physical education, recreation research, and a national recreation school.

The Playground Association of America antedated the Russell Sage Foundation by about a year; but the Foundation was not long in taking notice of this promising youngster in the family of agencies for "improving social and living conditions in America," and agreed to help it learn to walk alone. Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, Director of Physical Education for the public schools of New York City, was serving as the first presi-



Courtesy Piedmont, Calif., Recreation Department

Many of our present playgrounds were won through the persistent efforts of national field workers

dent of this young association which had been organized April 12, 1906, in Washington, D. C. The Foundation invited him in October, 1907, to become the chairman of a playground extension committee which it proposed to create and to devote a substantial part of his time to promoting the work of the Association. It was my good fortune to be associated at that time with Dr. Gulick as Inspector of Athletics for the New York City schools and to be invited to join him as secretary of the Committee and eventually field secretary of the Association.

Dr. Henry S. Curtis, the director of playgrounds in Washington, D. C., was one of the founders of the Association and was made its Secretary. Grace Parker was engaged as financial secretary on an underwriting by Russell Sage Foundation, and the team then went to work.

Joseph Lee, who later became the worthy successor to Dr. Gulick in the presidency of the Association, had helped to demonstrate the value of playgrounds for children in Boston. Chicago, under the leadership of E. B. DeGroot, had launched its wonderful South Park system

of playgrounds, swimming pools and field houses. These achievements, together with modest beginnings in several other scattered cities, were used to inspire citizens' organizations and a few municipalities to make beginnings in planning for play and athletics for their own boys and girls.

It seems all very crude as we look back upon it now, and the program was replete with "trial and error," but there is no discounting the earnestness and devotion of the men and women of the Association and the local committees who did the pioneering in the face of many difficulties and often of ridicule such as is indicated in the first words of this reminiscent sketch.

Most people had no idea what a children's playground looked like. To make a beginning, the Association set up one in connection with the Jamestown Exposition in Virginia in 1907 and carried on a program of play activities with the cooperation of the local public schools. This exhibit was organized by Dr. Curtis and paid for by the Russell Sage Foundation. Many visitors saw and were converted, and went back home resolved to do something about it for their communities.

Dr. Myron T. Scudder, Principal of the State Normal School at New Paltz, New York, and one of the founders of the Association, made for us, with the help of his pupils, a model of a school playground on a scale of about one foot to ten feet, and equipped it with miniature playground apparatus and dolls for children. This was first shown at a state teachers' convention in Albany, New York, and subsequently traveled over a good part of New England and the eastern, middle and southern states. It had a place among the exhibits of a national convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in New Orleans, La. The local clubs of that organization and the Parent-Teachers' groups were of inestimable assistance to the Association in its early days, and have continued to be among its strongest allies.

Financing Landmark

A notable landmark in the financing of the Association was a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in honor of Mrs. Humphry Ward of England, who happened to be in this country in 1908, and who had done some outstanding work for children's play in her country. Grace Parker, with the assistance of

Dr. Gulick and a special committee, organized an occasion that attracted many of the most influential people of New York City and vicinity. It was our most effective method of "broadcasting" in those days. The newspapers were generous of their space in reporting the dinner and in enlarging upon this new type of social welfare with its compelling appeal, because it was for children.



George E. Johnson, whose philosophy aided the young movement

It was not so very long after this that Miss Parker came to my desk one morning after opening her mail, and said, "I wonder if I am seeing straight this morning. What do you make out those figures to be?", and placed before me a check for \$25,000. This was hardly typical

of each morning's mail, but other money did continue to come in, so that the underwriters of the financial work were not called upon to make up any deficit.

International Study Made

Dr. Gulick was eager to take advantage of all progress that had been made in organized play for children. In addition to contacting with the best that American cities could offer, he sent his field secretary to Europe or to find out what Great Britain, France, Holland, Denmark, Germany and other countries had done. Germany was rich in practical suggestions for school and neighborhood playgrounds, municipal playing fields, and time allotted for their



Only 3,764 leaders of recreation were employed in 1909, the first year for which figures are available.

use in the school program. Probably the most effective aid in working with local organizations and municipal authorities was the force of example of other communities. Lantern slides used in addresses and loaned for use by local groups, told the story graphically and convincingly.

One of the most stimulating instances of drastic municipal action in providing playgrounds in neglected areas was the establishment of Seward Park Playground on the lower east side in New York City.

Under the inspiring leadership of Jacob Riis, then a newspaper reporter, public sentiment was so aroused that the city authorities purchased several blocks of tenement houses covering nearly two acres at a cost of about a million dollars per acre, razed the buildings, and laid out a playground for children. It was a fabulous price in those days—1903—and an unheard of expenditure of municipal funds for such a purpose.

A lantern slide picture of this playground and its surroundings, and a recital of the circumstances that brought it about, never failed to challenge attention and serious concern. The older cities were stirred to action and the newer ones resolved to forestall developments that would result in conditions requiring such drastic action. So the force of example did effective work.

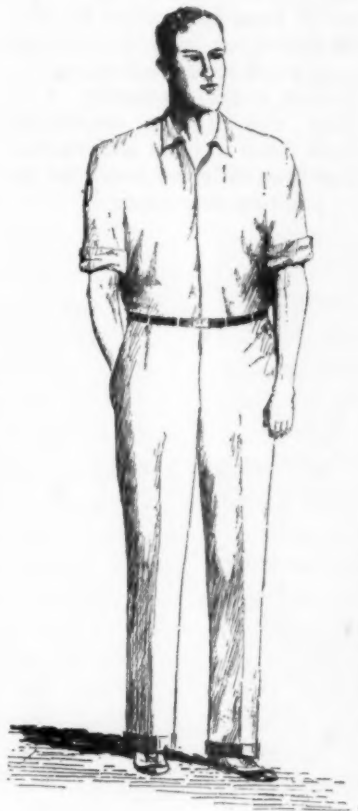
Converts were secured more rapidly than were local resources and competent organizers and play leaders. To help in developing the technique of this new craft, district institutes were conducted to which delegates from the cities of groups of states came for several days of intensive discussion and training. The few capable and experienced play leaders were pressed into service as instructors. Out of this evolved an effort to compile a document of practical suggestions for recreation workers, and to encourage training schools to provide more courses for those who wished to prepare themselves for this work. This took form in the "Normal Course in Play" published by the Association. Now the Association has its own excellent training center in New York City known as the National Recreation School Incorporated.

To this school come young men and young women from all parts of the United States to prepare themselves for administrative positions in public recreation.

The excellent work done by George E. Johnson, as the executive of the Playground Association of Pittsburgh, led the Association to hold its annual meeting in that city in 1909. It was a notable occasion in many respects, but most important of all for the Association and for the cause of children's play and the subsequent development of public recreation, is the fact that it was the meeting at which Joseph Lee was proposed for the presidency of the Association and Howard S. Braucher began his work with the Association as its forthcoming executive secretary. Mr. Lee was elected president at the next Congress in Rochester, N. Y. The Playground Association of America had established itself, and was ready to become the Playground and Recreation Association of America and eventually the National Recreation Association and to enter upon its broad and splendid mission of service to the children, the youth and the adults of the nation.

The spirit and practical idealism of the National Recreation Association is expressed in a paragraph from its annual report for 1930: "To

meet the increased demands upon it, the Association has added many services and departments. Now, at the beginning of a second quarter century of service, with society confronted by the immense opportunity of a rapidly growing spare time, the Association faces its greatest challenge and one that will put a greater demand upon its financial and human resources than it has ever faced before."



By 1929, the number of leaders employed had risen to 22,920, and standards of training had broadened immeasurably.

Twenty-Five Years of Progress in Recreation Legislation

By Arthur Williams
National Recreation Association

THE establishment of children's playgrounds in the larger metropolitan centers of the country, which were the first steps taken in the development of the present recreation movement, did not require general state legislation. Most of these larger metropolitan centers had home rule charters which would permit them to establish playgrounds through local legislation or each city secured a special act of legislation relating only to itself. As the advisability of establishing children's playgrounds in other than the larger metropolitan centers became apparent, there was a need for general state legislation throughout the states to establish playground work. An outstanding example of the early type of recreation was the Massachusetts playground referendum bill for cities and towns of over 10,000 which was passed in 1908.

School Center Legislation

The next general type of state legislation generally promoted in different states was school legislation to permit the use of school buildings as community centers. When the field service of the National Recreation Association was first established more than 20 years ago, the need for broad recreation legislation in the different states was not apparent as the service given in the earlier days was given to the larger cities where local authority could be secured through charter amendment or through other ways of taking advantage of the home rule powers of the first class cities. However, as soon as the Association started to serve other than the larger cities throughout the country, it found that effective help and effective prog-

ress could be made only as broader powers for the localities could be secured through state enabling acts. At that time the type of legislation needed was carefully studied and the Association furnished a special service to the localities in different states to help them secure the state recreation legislation needed in their states. This broader legislation which the Association helped to work out and promote was first passed in 1917. It permitted states to carry on recreation programs with full-time, trained, experienced and paid leadership. It had a number of broader features than previous legislation, but its outstanding feature was that it permitted for the first time by special state wide recreation legislation, the development of a broad program of activities for all ages and groups throughout the entire year. It provided for

Public support of playgrounds and recreation, with legal sanction by state and city, has rapidly replaced drives, tag days and other means of private support. Twenty-one states now have recreation enabling laws. Through popular vote, communities in twelve of these states, which have referendum features in their laws, may quickly secure a tax-supported recreation system under leadership. City plan and zoning legislation work hand in hand with recreation laws to insure provision for future play spaces.

the administration of the work by different local governmental units such as park boards, school boards and separate recreation commissions, so that each locality could have the freedom of working out its recreation administration problems in accordance with the special local conditions which should be taken into consideration in such planning. Several cities had earlier legislation authorizing the expenditures of funds for play and recreation activities and for the employment of leadership, but these laws were restricted to permitting some one particular branch of the local government to administer the work. In some states the laws provided for the school board to conduct such work but no other agency; in other states the park boards could do this work but no other agency.

At the present time the following 21 states have recreation enabling laws secured with the aid of the Association, which permit localities broad powers in planning their recreation work and in conducting it:

Connecticut	Louisiana
Georgia	New Jersey
Illinois	New York
Iowa	North Carolina
Florida	Ohio
Indiana	Pennsylvania
Kentucky	Rhode Island
Massachusetts	Utah
Michigan	Virginia
New Hampshire	Vermont
West Virginia	

Referendum Tax Legislation

In more recent years the Association has found that many local governments would like to have the support of their voters before establishing recreation work and would also like to have the financial freedom which comes through a special tax, so that work established could be so established without diverting funds from existing municipal services and thus decreasing their effectiveness. This has led to the passage of referendum tax legislation in a number of states, which provides for a city to establish playground and recreation work

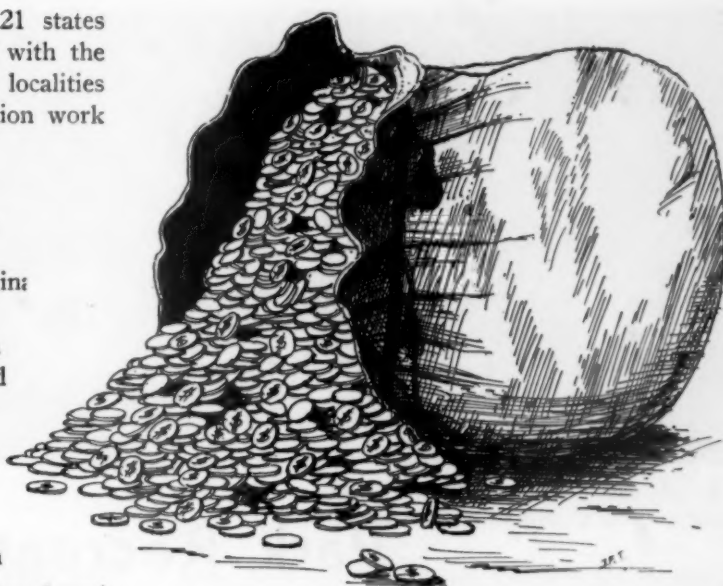


Public recreation expenditures in 1906—\$904,000

upon the favorable vote of the people of a locality and the levying of a special tax to finance it when such tax is approved by the voters. The Association helped to work out these newer legislative features and has helped also in securing passage of this type of supplementary legislation in the following 12 states:

Florida	New York
Georgia	North Carolina
Illinois	Ohio
Indiana	Vermont
Iowa	Virginia
New Jersey	West Virginia

In considering the legal powers which localities have for the development of adequate year round recreation systems, it is essential to keep in mind that such powers are derived not only from special legislation but from powers granted to local



Public recreation's money-bag in 1929 held \$33,539,805

school boards in school codes, from powers granted to park boards and from general police and public welfare powers granted localities in general codes. The present trend in many states throughout the country to pass more and more liberal general home rule bills delegating more and more of their state powers to the localities has a real bearing in the consideration of the present recreation legislation situation.

For example, in Texas any community of 5,000 or more can establish an adequate year round recreation program through charter amendment, because of the general home rule legislation which has been passed in Texas, although no special recreation enabling act conferring broad recreation administrative powers upon localities has been passed in Texas.

It is important to keep in mind in connection with recreation legislation the whole field of city plan legislation, because of the positive effect which city plan legislation and zoning legislation can have in the proper planning of communities for recreation as well as for traffic, sanitation and housing.

Need for Study

There has been no recent careful study of recreation legislation in the different states although different groups and individuals have from time to time studied more or less intensively particular sections of the recreation legislative field.

(Continued on page 111)



Courtesy Union County Park Commission

Park Recreation

By L. H. Weir

Field Secretary, National Recreation Association

FROM the middle of the last century down to its close the typical city park was a kind of outdoor municipal parlor. The smaller park areas were generally enclosed and the people restricted to the walks and the seats along the walks. "Keep Off the Grass" signs were numerous and conspicuous. The larger parks in addition to walks often had bridle paths, carriage driveways, and occasionally some facilities for boating and other physical activities. Special floral displays were fairly frequent. A very few of the larger parks had collections of native and exotic fauna for the entertainment and instruction of the people. A still fewer number attempted scientifically arranged collections of flora. Now and then a natural history museum or an art gallery might be found in a park. Picnicking and community celebrations under careful restrictions were permitted in some parks. Band concerts were allowed.

There was no definite attempt to promote or direct active uses of the areas. Even in connection with such instructional features as zoos and collections of flora no serious attempt was made to use them as instructional centers. The executive officer of the park department was usually chosen for his knowledge of horticulture and landscape

gardening. Public parks, once sacred to horticulture, now serve a variety of human uses, says Mr. Weir, who directed the recent national study of city and county parks. The "Keep Off the Grass" sign has vanished. Sports, nature study and art programs invite the people to the parks for active and inspiring use of leisure.

gardening. Park governing authorities were as a rule especially interested in the horticultural and landscape features of the parks. The maximum social uses of the areas were considered of secondary consequence. In large park systems engineering problems were of course given much consideration.

A park system was conceived to be chiefly a series of large properties connected by sublimated streets called boulevards or by genuine parkways with smaller intown properties as an incidental and often an undesired feature of the system.

The origin of this conception of parks and park systems is not difficult to understand. The early proponents of parks were landscape artists and the citizens who became interested in parks were generally interested in horticulture and the artistic arrangement of plants. Hence the art side of park planning and creation became a dominant motive in this form of civic development. European examples of parks may have influenced ideas as to park functions in this country also. Parks were works of art and as such they must be protected against the public as much as possible. In many cases the materials out of which parks were fashioned became of more importance than human uses for which they were intended. The concep-

tion of a park as a work of art was, and is, a high and worthy one. The early park planners and builders would have done well to have stood on this platform alone. However, some of them formulated and elaborated a social philosophy in relation to the functions of parks, which was sooner or later to bring the pure art conception into conflict with a series of intensive and extensive social uses of park areas; and the early planners saw the tendency toward the urbanization of the people already well pronounced in the 60's, 70's and 80's.

The Machine Age Brings Changes

The new industry causing this urbanization created much that was ugly; much congestion of people; polluted the atmosphere with smoke and dust; destroyed plant life; removed the people from direct contact with the soil and growing things; induced nervous strains by reason of monotony, noise, confinement indoors and high speed effort. The hours of labor were long. The park planners of that day conceived the idea that urban people so afflicted should have open spaces to which to escape where the air was reasonably pure, where peace and quietness prevailed and where there was an abundance of plant life arranged in beautiful designs. They asserted such places were for the re-creation or "recreation" of the people but at the same



Courtesy Dept. of Parks, Brooklyn, N. Y.

This versatile cement area in Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, is used for tennis

time defined recreation as the pleasure or happiness coming from the peaceful contemplation of an idealized rural landscape. This art gallery conception of park planning and building prevailed for five or six decades and became so fixed as a principle that when the social philosophy expounded by the early planners began to be interpreted with wider implications, a hue and cry was raised that irreparable injury would be done the parks if the people were allowed to use them in ways different from the traditional conception.

By the close of the century, however, times had greatly changed. The factory type of industry had increased enormously—an increase to be still more marked during the next two decades. Urbanization of the people progressed with parallel rapidity. All the evils mentioned by the early

And here a dance attracts young people of the neighborhood.



Courtesy Dept. of Parks, Brooklyn, N. Y.



Courtesy Dept. of Parks, Brooklyn, N. Y.

School girls stage a jacks contest on the same cement

park planners, growing out of this removal of the people from the soil, were intensified and others were made manifest. Hours of labor began to be shortened and labor saving devices multiplied, giving the people increased leisure. A people keyed by their work habits to intense activity were not content to merely contemplate the beauties of their open recreation spaces. Moreover, the new psychology began to teach that there was no growth, no development, no life to be had from the peaceful contemplation of anything. To do was to live. The increase of automatic or semi-automatic machinery in the new industry more and more cramped creative expression among workers. If the varied powers, capacities and interests of each person were to find expression, the opportunity must come chiefly through the use of leisure hours. As a consequence of

While in cold weather it is flooded for skating



Courtesy Dept. of Parks, Brooklyn, N. Y.

these conditions and of the new psychological teachings, new demands began to be made on the only existing recreation institution, the parks and the park departments. Slight changes in park services were manifest here and there as early as the eighties and nineties but it was not until the beginning of the present century in South Park, Chicago, that almost revolutionary changes in park services were inaugurated.

Park Service Increase

Since that epoch-making period in park history in Chicago there has been a gradual evolution in park development throughout the United States. This evolution has always been toward a broader conception of services. Park planning is now ranked as one of the most fundamental and important phases of general city planning. Types of properties have multiplied, each more or less distinguished by special functional uses. Green acreage of open spaces has markedly increased in nearly all progressive cities. The standard of the amount of open space to a given number of people is constantly rising. No less marked has been the change in design of the different types of areas.

The early park planners would look with amazement on the varied equipment for activities in the modern park not excepting the large land-

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Public Recreation and Leisure

By Will R. Reeves

Director Public Recreation Commission, Cincinnati, Ohio

THE pursuit of happiness has been the chief goal of man from the beginning of recorded time. For the relatively few, that happiness has been achieved through the accumulation of wealth, the rise of power, and acknowledged authority, preeminence in any field of human endeavor, or the creation through brain and hand of poetry, music, painting, sculpture, and architecture; in other words, through that sense of satisfaction that comes from a definite and acknowledged assertion of personality over and above one's fellows.

For the multitude, the pursuit of happiness has been largely confined to the doing of the work necessary to provide meat, covering and shelter, and to the simple and fundamental expressions of personality that take place in the family or clan through the nurture and protection of dependents, and through participation in traditional folk games.

Leisure as a potential gateway to happiness, joyousness, a sense of achievement, the serenity of mind that is the result of fundamental and inherent urges satisfied, has always been enjoyed by the rich and powerful. Not until the present age, however, do we find leisure enjoyed in such time quantities by all people. The reasons for this are well known and widely discussed.

Most of us have merely accepted this new boon to mankind, paying little or no attention to the use which we have been led to make of it by the relatively small group interested only in exploiting leisure time for its own profit. While commercialized recreation is said to be the fourth largest industry in the country, society as a whole, through its various governmental units has only made a beginning in

**Swift and common action
can redeem our growing
leisure for human happiness
and satisfaction in life.**

the use of leisure time as an investment in human values.

Due to the empirical emphasis placed on the leisure time of the American soldier in the World War, and the excellent results obtained therefrom, and the consequent increasing recognition of leisure time as a potentially constructive or destructive social force by educators, social workers, public officials, and some business executives, the use of leisure time is gradually coming to be accepted as one of the major problems that must be solved by swift and common action if it is to be redeemed from its present widespread use as a destructive element in our social life.

There is no denying that due in part to the emphasis on commercialized forms of recreation we have become a pleasure-loving, excitement-craving, entertainment-going people, and that all classes are expending a large percentage of income on entertainment that titillates the nerves, excites the imagination, or vicariously fills an emotional need, rather than on leisure time ac-

tivities that are contributing factors to health and real happiness.

What restless, highly strung, nervous Americans need much more than this pouring-in process constantly going on around us, is a pouring-out process through actual participation in activities that will provide outlets for

The recreation program for the new leisure must fulfill man's desire to sing, play and act with his fellows; to commune with himself in quiet places away from the world of machines

bottled-up aspirations, desires, energies, and emotions; that will release through amateur music, amateur dramatics, amateur sports and playfield activities, certain natural forces which, denied release, become forces that work for unrest, unhappiness, and ugliness of life.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is truer today than when it was first written. The adventure in work today, the sense of achievement, is limited to the few who plan, control and direct. Even the so-called professions are so specialized and standardized that the "run of the mine" holder of a qualifying certificate or diploma finds his interest in leisure time outweighing his interest in work time, because his leisure time is becoming more and more to be the only time he can do or try to do what he actually wants to do, not what he is forced to do in order to make a living.

It would seem that the right to play—for play's sake—can be determined if we are willing to agree that the "pursuit of happiness" is still the great motivating force in the life of man, and that due to present day work-environment and conditions, most of us do not and cannot find that happiness in work hours. This is particularly true in the case of the average individual between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five or thirty, when the blood runs fast and red, when life is still an adventure, when a thrill or a "kick" must be found somehow, somewhere, when life's real interests are generally projected outside the school, shop, store, office, factory, to the time we can call our own. It is then only we have the right to try to be what is denied us while we are doing our share of keeping this workaday world going. Because of economic circumstances, what most of us do in this free time depends in large measure on the opportunities afforded in the city of today. If that city life prohibits human activities that are age old, that have always acted as outlets for human enthusiasm, exuberance of spirits, energy and ambition — then working together we must see to it that opportunities for those activities are given back to our citizens, young and old.

Let us not be ashamed to play, just for the fun of it. Let us be hunters, fighters, musicians, actors, painters, nature lovers, unconscious builders of "more man, more woman," just because we want to be, seeking through this use of our leisure hours the serenity of mind, the poise, the balanced nervous system that is necessary if we are really to live, not merely exist.

To many of us it seems that a re-subscription of Aristotelian ideals which glorify man himself rather than the things he creates would give us the sense of values required to consider again the pursuit of happiness as man's chief goal. To realize this ideal our various governmental units must cease thinking of the leisure time problem as something to be adequately cared for only after other more traditional public needs are fully met, and should begin to act on the theory that leisure time may be an asset in our social fabric only as recreational opportunities, wide in scope and interest, are provided at no cost or a nominal cost for that portion of our citizenship unable economically to provide such opportunities for itself.

In the past, the continued denial to the multitude of man's chief end—the pursuit of happiness—has inevitably caused widespread sullenness, discontent, unrest and worse. Today, mounting costs in broken health, juvenile delinquency, adult unhappiness, unrest and crime are warnings that should not be disregarded. Further delays in moving quickly to the goal cannot be excused save on the grounds of ignorance and indifference, because as a nation we have the leadership and are rich enough to bring about in the next decade any change we desire in our cities in order that they may be good places in which to live as well as work.

In considering this problem we must bear in mind that present-day conditions are no more fixed or static than they have ever been in the past. Science and invention have only begun to shorten man's working day. Continued progress in making life easier may reasonably be expected. Some of our great industrialists are now talking in terms of the seven hour day and the five day week. In fact, our time and labor saving devices may force us to adopt the minimum suggested by certain economists—the two hour day and the four day week. What then of leisure time? Will it not in fact have become by far the most important time in the life of man? And how shall we be prepared to turn it into constructive use unless we set up the machinery now to plan intelligently for the future?

To many of us, professionally engaged in this field of service, this machinery should take the form of an independent Commission or Board entirely divorced from politics, with a mandatory tax levy so graduated that it provides for increasing population needs, and, with the legal right to

(Continued on page 107)

Public Recreation

Viewed from the Half-way Mark

By Harold S. Battenheim and Martha Candler

1906

1956

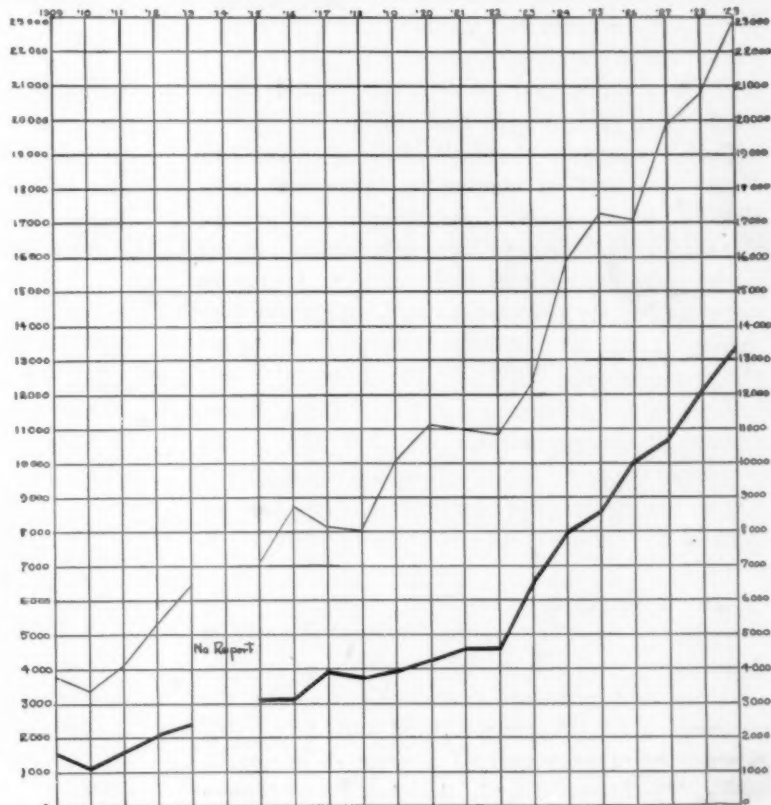
IN the year 1906, although automobile passengers still rode in a rigidly upright position and out in the weather, the six-cylinder motor had been perfected and a new high-speed record of a mile in 34 1/3 seconds had been set. The United States Government was embarking upon its first scientific experiments in road surfacing, and New York State pioneered by voting a \$50,000,000 good roads bond issue. National forest and park recreation were being aggressively furthered by President Roosevelt, the country's greatest public advocate of the Democracy of the Free Outdoors, and of vigorous and zestful living. A storm had just made history in Columbus, Ohio, by carrying away overnight a double stretch of blind fence which had extended from the women's bathhouse at the new concrete public pool well into the water. Thereafter, the newly courageous walked boldly into the water clothed simply in bathing attire,—the obvious elements of which were a bathing suit with a sailor collar and reaching to ankles and elbows, stockings, shoes, corsets, and two caps, the outer frilled.

And now the historic city plan of Chicago was being made. A number of cities had adopted plans for park systems. At least one country park system had been established. Vacation play schools, sand gardens, kindergartens and public playgrounds had passed beyond the stage of experimentation by social agencies, and were being advocated for public adoption. Forty-one cities had reported organized public playgrounds. Thus was the stage set

for the coming of the national recreation movement as we know it today. On to the stage came the Playground Association of America, as it was originally named.

By the time *The American City* had been born, in 1909, the Association was the center of dynamic, nation-wide activity directed towards playgrounds—especially children's playgrounds—as a governmental responsibility. The job upon which it had launched immediately after organization—the making of the famous playground plan for the District of Columbia; the championship of this plan by President Roosevelt; the un-

How directed play areas (dark line) and recreation leaders employed (light line) have mounted



hesitating Congressional appropriation of \$75,000 for commencing the carrying out of the plan—these had had their immediate effect upon the nation as a whole and upon municipal officials. The standards of space and facilities requirements outlined in the District of Columbia study were being widely quoted; permissive state legislation was being drafted and urged for passage. "A Playground for Every Child" became a community slogan. Children themselves by hundreds of thousands in cities and towns had urged their own cause in "Give Us Playgrounds" parades.

It was only a few months later—early in 1910—that Howard Braucher, from beneath an avalanche of in-pouring demands for service of all sorts, gave out to the press a statement of his conviction that "If the money were available for giving to cities the information which they desire, practically every city and town in the United States would have playgrounds by 1915."

Social workers, physical educators, women's clubs, chambers of commerce, taxpayers' associations, were eagerly interesting themselves in the cause. College and high school debating societies were taking it as their subject. Lecturers were talking it; newspapers and magazines featuring it; and no fair was complete without its playground exhibit. Already 336 cities and towns had organized recreation; in 62 of them it was municipally supported, and in 82 it had partial municipal support. Many national welfare movements, the Association's Secretary added, had attained less momentum during a century of growth.

The remarkable prophetic vision of the founders of what is now the National Recreation Association, and the initial standards of administration and practice—remarkable now in the perspective of 25 years—stand out from this vantage point as a part of a great civic renaissance. The lowest point in the play life of human history had been reached, someone says, in the



Scenes like this one, in a Chicago park, will environ tomorrow's city

latter part of the preceding century. A low point in American municipal government had likewise been touched. But with the turn of the century there came a steadily growing interest in municipal and civic affairs. The average citizen began to awaken to the possibilities inherent in creative, democratic local administration, and to his own rights and duties in a life in which the human unit was increasingly prominent. This was a fertile field for growth of "The Playground for every Child; Recreation for All" movement.

City planning, up to the twentieth century largely concerned with street systems, began to examine into every phase of the communal life, and physical provisions possible for it; it promoted vitally, and was vitally promoted by, the recreation cause. This reciprocal action has been going on increasingly ever since.

The 25th Birthday of the National Recreation Association finds, therefore, the wave of public recreation development still crescent. Public recreation, publicly supported, may fairly be accepted as a part of the permanent living fabric of the social life of 1931.

What of 1956?

Let us dream of Happy City, where home life and play, and school and play, and work and play will find their ideal balance.

In Happy City *every child, until he is old enough to go to school*, will have a pleasant and safe place for play in the yard of his own home, where his mother may keep a watchful eye on him as she goes about her household duties. At farthest remove, he will play with a small group of intimates of his own age in a semi-private area separated from the other open spaces of the block interior by a screen of planting.

Every child of school age will make his own choices of physical recreation, in summer and in winter, under leadership, at a pleasantly designed playground in close proximity to his school, and within a quarter-mile of his home.

Every youth and every adolescent girl and

every young industrial and professional worker, at least to the age of 21, will have convenient access to a large, efficiently designed playfield, with stadium and swimming pool, where physical diversions are possible in great variety. He or she will have opportunity to sign up for year-round participation in programs of competitive sports under proper control, and to train for annual playdays when honors will be won before the vast audiences for which the stadium will provide.

In Happy City family groups as well as age groups will be familiar playing units. Every member of the family will find congenial diversion in the neighborhood park; in the waterfront parks; and in the large scenic areas that may be inside or outside the corporate limits, but will be within convenient transportation range. This will offer picnicking, boating, camping, and winter sports.

Promise of the Happy City which will afford all these advantages is inherent in some of the long-time planning programs of cities and regions; in the newer ideas of physical education and physical recreation; and in present trends towards such restrictions of private land development as will obviate the needless crowding together of private dwellings and the crowding out of yards and play areas.

But in Happy City, *this will be only half of the recreation program*, for here the Greek ideal will be cherished. The perfect mind will be developed consonantly with the perfect body; the

development and the perfection of both for the adequate self-expression of the individual, will be the responsibility of the recreation department. In recreation centers which will be developed in conjunction with the system of outdoor play areas and indoor gymnasiums, all manner of cultural and avocational pursuits will be followed at the pleasure of young and old. These great centers will be libraries and museums for studies of the sciences and the arts; they will be also, and importantly, workshops where skill in the handicrafts may be gained and refined. For the purposes of this center, every element of the community will provide leadership; the skilled workman will bring his tools as proudly as the virtuoso his violin.

Let us look over the open country which we somehow dream of as environing Happy City, on some holiday, or Sunday, or on a long afternoon after the study or work of the day is over. Active play areas will be occupied. Groups accompanied by guides will flock over the wooded hills intent on the lessons of the nature trails; others will pass on their pilgrimage to the distant elevations where from the amateur astronomical observatories they may watch the stars rise; still others will be intent on sketching the landscape. Some will merely lie and watch the clouds float by, or tell old tales to a group of their mates. For, in Happy City, true democracy will be realized in the leisure time of the people, and each will express himself according to the spirit that is in him. What of 1956?

Development of Recreational Philosophy

By Clark W. Hetherington

BROADLY speaking, it is safe to say that previous to 1906 America had no positive philosophy about the social or educational values of play or recreation. There were recreational activities, but no national recreational ideals or philosophical principles or customs concerning recreation that were accepted by public leaders, social workers or educators. This was due in large measure to the fact that the people of the United States had come out of pioneer days without the conscious need for recreation or the opportunities to develop recreational ideals such as existed in Europe. Pioneer life itself carries with it the emotional stimulus, excitement, and strenuousness that put recreation to the side. But back

of this pioneer influence, puritan ideals were distinctly antagonistic towards play. Seriousness was exalted; play was frowned upon. It was something to be feared. This deeply ingrained attitude had associated with it two other prejudices: the survivals of ascetic and scholastic attitudes. In the ascetic ideals the mind was exalted, the "body" debased—the "flesh" was the source of all evil. In the scholastic attitude the intellect was exalted; the emotions ignored. The subtle undercurrent of these prejudices in thought and feeling were powerful among social groups in proportion as they had cultural ambitions.

No one who was not of an age in 1906 for
(Continued on page 111)



Courtesy of Philadelphia Playgrounds Association

The formal type of physical education is rapidly disappearing

It was during the 1880's that Physical Education in the United States got off to its permanent start. Previously there had been sporadic developments of interests but there had been little sequence between them. In the 80's, however, a very definite foothold was gained in many of the colleges and universities, and the public schools also showed signs of becoming interested. The emphasis was largely a health and developmental one. Consequently, medically trained men and women comprised the staffs of the gymnasiums. Physiology, kinesiology, and anthropometry were put into practice with a vim. Exercises were adapted to muscles and joints, and mental processes were disciplined for the attainment of precision and conscious bodily control.

What might have been the status of physical

The

The play spirit has given physical education new vigor, a wider social outlook and emphasis on activities that will carry over to adult life.

education had it been permitted to steer this well-charted—if unadventurous—course, is an interesting matter for conjecture. But unperceived social forces were gathering momentum and were destined soon to cause upheavals in almost the same manner as the “subconscious” becomes disturbing to the individual self.

One of these factors was the student revolt against formal discipline in exercise as expressed in the unexpected rise of athletics, an institution which has been aptly called the “one contribution of the student boy to American education.” (President C. C. Little.) In sharp contrast to the Physical Education of the time,

the athletic movement was filled with the wild vigor and abandon of youth, and, heedless of health and principle, was devoted to exercise not as an end in itself but as an expression of the competitive spirit and its concomitants.

At this time another social movement was just beginning to flower. This was the play and recreation movement, which as yet was concerned with little children and adolescents and with the problem of providing play spaces in crowded cities.

Athletic and Playground Exercise Different from Formal Physical Education

These two movements, the athletic and the playground, differed from formal physical education in that exercise was not thought of in

Contribution of the Recreation Movement to Physical Education

By E. D. Mitchell

Associate Professor of Physical Education, University of Michigan

health, curative and disciplinary terms, but rather as a wholesome outlet for exuberant animal spirits and as an expression of many intangible qualities such as school spirit, cooperation, courage, friendliness, and so on. To the college, athletics was an antidote to hazing, drinking, hair-cutting, and vicious pranks; to the municipality, play was an eliminator of juvenile delinquency. As the years went on, more and more the positive outcomes in education in social living, ethical principles, and success in life were sought and realized. In this scheme of things, health, to be sure, was not lost sight of, but rather it was incidental and often sacrificed to the goal of success.

With two such opposing choices, there could be but one alternative. It is human nature to crave self-expression. So athletics boomed; the playgrounds flourished; and formal physical education lost much of the ground it had gained. The lot of physical education in the face of such competition was also made harder by the fact that a prominent committee of the National Education Association in the 90's, while formulating the objectives of that powerful body, not so much as mentioned Physical Education. Consequently, school executives, always by circumstances forced to practice economy, did not feel called upon to promote something that seemingly would bring no credit to their schools and which had not been definitely advocated by the national body responsible for establishing standards and setting up objectives.

New Trends in Physical Education

Out of this situation, however, trends were to develop which completely changed the concept, program, and significance of Physical Education. The favored types of exercises, as evidenced in the recreation and athletic programs, began to find a place also in the physical education programs. Two new games, basketball and volleyball, began to be played in the gymnasiums. A new type of activity tests, mainly featuring track and field events, began to appear in addition to the older anthropometric chartings. Games taught wholesale on the playground began to be used in school yards and in classrooms. Even the hardened formalist could not resist the temptation at times to introduce a game or two and be rewarded by a lusty cheer. The whole physical

Informal play has a vital part in the modern physical education and health program of schools



Courtesy Playground Commission, San Francisco, Calif.

education movement became broadened — not merely in its curriculum, but in its objectives. To the health and disciplinary objectives of old were now added social, mental and moral objectives, vague possibly but at least wholehearted in their claims for recognition. This was the first and possibly the most important contribution of the recreation movement to Physical Education. Physical Education began to think of itself in terms of education and not as a thing apart.

Other contributions followed as a matter of course. Physical Education began to capitalize on the hold that the informal play and athletic movement had captured in the public imagination. It is not too much to say that the recreation movement created public sentiment for physical education equipment and programs. The recreation movement with its emphasis on all activities that are creative, and its later inclusion of adults within its scope, revolutionized the plans and use of school buildings. It was easier to obtain gymnasiums, play fields, and swimming pools, when the public was convinced that these expenditures would be justified by a constant use of them. The small community was more ready to bond itself for a gymnasium when it realized that this addition would be the community center for its social activities. A somewhat similar situation held true in the case of school athletics. As the athletic programs began to prosper and to enlarge their facilities and equipment, they were no longer left uncurbed. With faculty direction, their new buildings, fields, and funds began to be made available for universal use.

So we have informal activities in the required program; we have social and moral objectives added to health; we have physical activity a natural part of the child's growth and an integral part of education; we have adequate facilities and programs; we have community-wide use of schools. These are contributions of the recreation movement to Physical Education.

But these are not all.

By its early recognition of the inevitable outcome of the industrial age in the way of increased productiveness and shorter hours of labor, the National Recreation Association brought preparedness to the problem of "Education for Leisure." This is now so apparent to schoolmen as to be one of their major ob-

jectives, one of the *Seven Cardinal Principles*, and one of the leading editorial topics in current educational journals. This influence has been felt in Physical Education with the result that its programs have been shaped to include training for all in "carry over" activities that may be pursued vigorously and joyously after schooldays are over. It is recognized that many likings come only after the elementary skills are learned and that the early years are the strategic ones in this respect. As adult recreation comes more and more to the fore, so will physical education be extended in the comprehensiveness of its offerings.

Possibly it is a minor note (in comparison with the more far-reaching contributions) to mention that in the early days before the schools had playgrounds the public parks were made available for school demonstrations and athletic events. This situation still holds true in many places.

Possibly, too, of minor note is the fact that intramurals, in colleges and in the public schools, have borrowed from the playground systems many ideas for stimulating voluntary participation, particularly in the way of individual and group point systems, inexpensive ribbon and badge awards, and new games and attractive methods of organizing mass competition.

But it is decidedly not minor to remember that the National Recreation Association has, through its National Physical Education Service, rendered invaluable aid in securing state-wide legislation for physical education. Thirty-six states now have laws for physical education and the majority of these have state directors to assist in the promotion of the school program and to exert a restraining influence over some of the tendencies to excess in athletics.

All this development in enlarging the program of Physical Education has not been accomplished without difficulty. It was early pointed out in this article that play and athletics, containing as they do the realizations of so many fundamental human urges and expressions, can easily break the bonds of social direction and go to extremes. Their course was entirely contrary to that of the premeditated, precise, and clearly marked path of the early gymnastic and health type of Physical Education. Be-

(Continued on page 100)

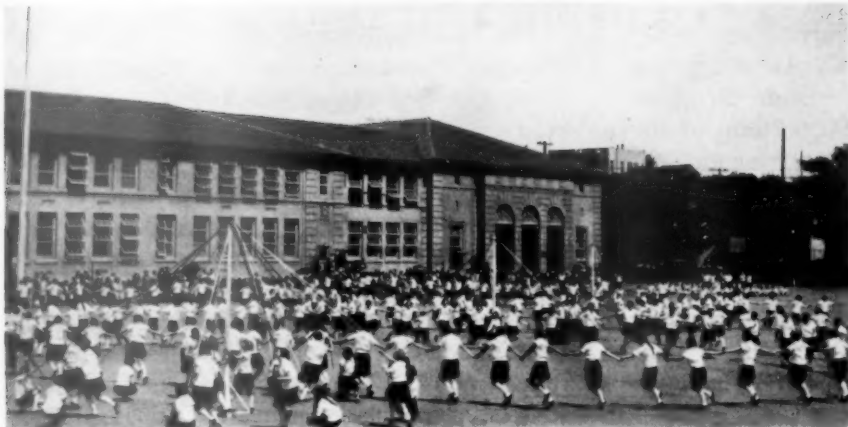
Remember—

The June issue of "Recreation" will be the Year Book, official survey of public recreation statistics for 1930, as supplied by some 975 communities throughout the country. This issue will classify important new facts on types of centers, city expenditures for play, and the progress of leadership.

Municipal Recreation and the Public Schools

By James Edward Rogers

Director National Physical
Education Service



Courtesy Recreation Dept., Oakland, Calif.

**Outdoor sports for every child are
replacing star teams in schools today**

THE development of municipal year round recreation systems supported by taxation has had a marked influence on the public school systems in this country. That the provision for the play life of little children and for the recreational life of adolescents is a duty of public schools has now been recognized. Modern education today is much concerned with the task of education for leisure both for the youth and adolescent.

For twenty-five years the National Recreation Association has been preaching the philosophy that play is education—that the child grows and learns through wise play habits developed under trained leadership. It has advanced the idea that under modern mechanical industrial conditions of life, recreation is an ingredient of life, an integral item in the balanced ration of living which young and old should have, if they are to be happy, normal, efficient citizens.

In recent years this Association has pointed out the obvious fact that with the steady, rapid increase of leisure because of the shorter working day, space, facilities and programs must be made available for the wise and wholesome use of free time. Through its field service, lectures,

meetings, congresses, conferences, bulletins, magazines, books, it has permeated the country with these concepts as to the importance of play, recreation and leisure.

Many national movements and organizations have felt and profited by this emphasis on these three vital factors in modern life. The schools have responded and are doing much to provide for play of the young, recreation of the youth and free time of adults. Schools are

providing for adequate play space with programs under trained leadership. All new schools have large school playgrounds that are oftentimes used as part of the year round municipal recreation system. The trend is to have three to four acres for elementary schools, 5 to 10 acres for junior high schools, and 10 to 20 acres for senior high schools. This rapid growth in the number and size of school playgrounds devoted to community-wide use, is one of the progressive signs in modern education. Schools are also providing large adequate indoor gymnasiums and other facilities for play, sports, and athletics. The use of school buildings for community evening recreational purposes is growing in extent. The school programs in music, drama, art, are reaching out into the community. Schools are making community contacts through their extra-curricular programs and through the use of the school buildings by Parent-Teacher Associations, Boy Scouts, and similar groups. The school house becomes a real community center.

Large beautiful auditoriums are used for lectures, concerts and meetings. In brief, no up-to-date school building of any size is now being constructed without playgrounds, gymnasium, audi-

torium and other facilities, to be devoted to the recreational and avocational education of all.

One contribution made by the National Recreation Association directly to public schools during the last twelve years is the service rendered to state departments of education in the establishment of state physical education laws, and the appointment of state directors of health and physical education on the staff of the state superintendent of public instruction. In 1918 when the National Physical Education Service was established by this Association, only 11 states had laws and only four states had state directors. Today 36 states representing 90 per cent of the population have laws, 32 states representing 80 per cent of the population have state programs, and 20 states representing 70 per cent of the population have state directors.

By working through the State Departments of Education it is possible eventually to affect the play and recreation life of the 26 million school children in this country. For example in one state over 52 per cent of the school population is definitely enrolled in a state-wide play program. In 12 states over 50 per cent of the counties have play days and year round schedules of activities. It is estimated that these state departments now reach about 15 million school children. This has been a specific concrete contribution by this Association to education.

During the past four years this Association has worked on the formulation of a set of National Physical Achievement Standards which promise to be of nation-wide significance. Through the cooperation of a national committee of experts and national associations interested in the recreation and physical progress of American youth, a set of standards for the different age levels has been scientifically prepared that will provide a year round program in the development of skills in games, track and field events, gymnastic stunts and adequate sports. It is now possible to see what an eight, nine, ten year-old, etc., can do in these different events. We have furnished the educator with what he has been asking for for many years. We have given him a knowledge of what he can expect of boys in recreational activities, as we can in reading, geography, history and other school subjects. School administrators have been most appreciative. The potential values of this contribution to the play life and physical welfare of America can only be appreciated by a study of these standards.

The National Recreation Association has worked in close cooperation with the National Education Association. One of its staff members has served for four years as president of the Department of School Health and Physical Education of the N. E. A. The department's activities have reached out through the country and have materially helped local school systems in the development of their play, recreation, health and physical education program.

The Association has also been helping the National Commission on the Enrichment of Adult Life and one of its staff members is secretary of this Commission. The purpose of the Commission is "for the teaching profession to promote plans for the wiser use of extra or leisure hours just as it has in previous years promoted the movement for vocational efficiency. To promote the avocational is naturally the next step." This Commission is composed of about forty of the outstanding national leaders in education, industry, labor and social service. Every state has a commission similarly composed. There is a national program that is now functioning and through the state commissions it is hoped to reach the entire country.

The School Recreation Program is thus becoming a big factor in the development of the general community recreation program. It is recognized that the city government through their municipal Recreation Boards and the Park Boards through their recreational bureaus also have vital programs. The schools however have a unique opportunity because they touch the intimate life of every child and are in touch with every home.

Education today is not restricted to the three R's. So-called extra-curricular school subjects are now part of the regular school program. The arts are now flourishing in the up-to-date school. Every school has its orchestras, bands, its glee clubs, choruses. Rapid provision is being made for music, art, drama, nature study and other art activities. Concerts, exhibits and demonstrations of art, drama and music are frequently given during the school year. Schools are making provision for adult education not only through vocational teaching but informal education that has to do with the avocations of life. In brief, recreation leaders and the Association have initiated, promoted, organized and cooperated in helping the public schools of America provide for the play life of children, the recreational needs of youth, and the education of leisure for adults.

Changes in Playground Design and Equipment

By George D. Butler

National Recreation Association

A QUARTER of a century might well be expected to bring forth many changes and improvements in the physical equipment of a movement, especially during its infancy, and in this respect the playground movement is no exception. At the same time one is impressed by the insight and thoroughness which characterized many of the playground pioneers in their study of the problems of layout and equipment and of their relation to the entire play program. Although new and improved devices have been invented, a great variety of additional materials have been put to use, changing ideas of the function of a playground have affected its arrangement and use, and new games have become popular. To a large extent, the current principles governing playground design and layout resemble closely those worked out early in the century. Such changes as have been made, have been based largely on experience and on the changing life and interests of the people served.

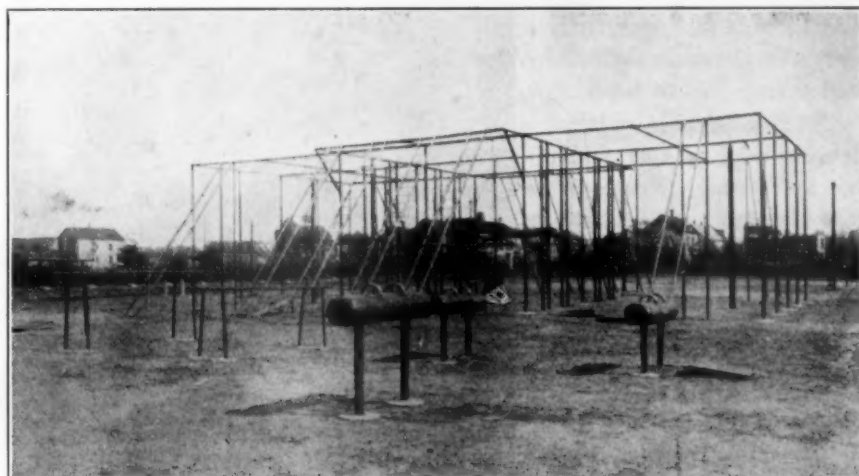
Discussions of the playground in 1906 centered primarily around the school playground, which was generally of very meager proportions, the small municipal playground and the large community playground and athletic field of which the centers established by the South Park Commis-

Today's larger play areas have their apparatus grouped to serve varying ages and interests.

sion in Chicago, were the outstanding example. These three types of areas are among the most important in the recreation system of today. The school playground is now frequently three acres or more in extent and the municipal or neighborhood playground, although intended primarily for children, is often of sufficient size to provide activities for all the family. The modern neighborhood playfield of 8 to 20 acres is similar in many respects to the early Chicago playgrounds and athletic fields.

Perhaps no play standards have undergone a greater change than those with respect to the size of children's playgrounds. In writing of school-yard playground requirements in 1908, Mero

"A Model Playground" the pride of the community in 1908



states that the average space per pupil is perhaps 10 to 20 square feet, "except for the very newest schools in which up-to-date ideas have been adopted in this respect and the 30 square feet rule is followed as closely as possible." These "up-to-date" schools would be considered exceedingly out-of-date today when the accepted standard for an elementary school site is at least five acres. There has not been a corresponding increase in the space standards for adult play areas although many cities today have playfields or athletic fields comparable in size to the few but widely known areas developed twenty-five years ago.

Definite trends may be noted in the general layout and space uses of playgrounds over a period of years. Due perhaps to its limited size, a considerable proportion of the early children's playground was devoted to apparatus which accommodated large numbers on a small area. The added space available today is devoted primarily to organized games and group activities. There is a present tendency to set aside a section for the exclusive use of children up to six or seven years of age, whereas in the early days the children under ten years of age were cared for in a special area. Three separate sets of apparatus were often provided, one for the pre-school group, another for the older girls and third for the older boys. Today, however, it is becoming a common practice to provide one general apparatus area which is used by both boys and girls, primarily from seven to 12 years. In many of the early playgrounds the apparatus was either massed in the center of the playground or was set up along the entire border. Today the tendency is to concentrate the apparatus, leaving the center of the playground free and enabling game courts such as basketball and volley ball to be laid out along the boundary fence on one or two sides of the area. Except in large playgrounds where separate areas are provided for the games and play activities of the older boys and girls, the use of game courts and other spaces by the two groups is determined largely by

the program. The older boys and girls were generally separated by a hedge or fence in the early playfields. A feature of many recent playfield plans, which one looks for in vain in the areas planned early in the century, is the sports field or play area for older girls and women, providing facilities for such games as hockey, soccer, playground ball, archery and field sports. Although the early plans provided ample sports areas for the older boys and men, the demand for such areas for the other sex is comparatively recent.

Playground apparatus, recognized today as an important feature of every children's playground, played a big part in the planning of the early playgrounds. Changing opinions on particular types of apparatus can perhaps be illustrated most effectively by quoting from a group report on Playground Equipment submitted in 1910, and from a report on Standards in Playground Apparatus adopted in 1929. Since the earlier report was more inclusive, only the items of apparatus are listed here. The following lists were recommended in the 1910 report (the items indicated by an asterisk were in the *essential*, and the others in the *ideal*, list):

GIRLS OF ALL AGES AND BOYS UNDER TEN YEARS

- * 4 sand courts, 8 x 16 ft.
- * 12 rope swings, approximately 10 ft. high
- * 2 sliding boards
- * 4 giant strides
- * 6 teeter ladders

An aerial view of the layout features of an athletic field in the South Park System, Chicago



Courtesy So. Park System, Chicago



Two sixty-foot and two ninety-foot lighting towers turn night into day for football games at Knox Athletic Field, Johnstown, New York

- 2 sets (5 rings in each set) traveling rings
- 8 sets flying rings
- 4 climbing ropes
- 4 climbing poles
- 4 vertical ladders
- 4 inclined or slanting ladders
- 6 teeter boards

FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

- * 4 rope swings
- * 3 horizontal bars (1 low, 1 medium, 1 high)
- 2 sets (5 rings in each set) traveling rings
- * 4 sets flying rings
- * 2 trapezes
- * 2 giant strides
- * 4 climbing ropes
- * 4 climbing poles
- 4 vertical ladders
- 4 slanting ladders
- 2 teeter ladders
- 1 buck
- 1 horse
- 1 parallel bar

The following items were recommended by the committee of recreation executives in 1929:
For pre-school age children (under 6 years):

- Chair swings (set of 6)
- Sand box (in 2 sections)
- Small slide
- Simple low climbing device

For children of elementary school age (6-12 years and older):

- Swing—frame 12' high (set of 6)
- Slide—8' high (approx. 16' long)
- Horizontal ladder
- Traveling rings or giant stride
- Balance beam
- See-saws (set of 3 or 4)

Optional—if available funds, space and attendance justify:

- Horizontal bar
- Giant stride or traveling rings (whichever is not provided above)
- Low climbing device

It is evident that much of the gymnastic apparatus which gave to the early playgrounds the name of outdoor gymnasias is now regarded by many recreation leaders as more suitable for indoor than outdoor use. The teeter ladder has practically disappeared from the public playground and the buck, horse, and parallel bars are seldom found in the newer areas. It is also of interest to note that the only new pieces of apparatus in the lists are the horizontal ladder and the low climbing device (which is known as the Junglegym). A great number of new devices, many of them adaptations of the older ones, are now available from the manufacturers. Although under certain conditions they serve a useful purpose, the old and tried types are gen-

(Continued on page 105)

White House Anniversary Meeting

(Continued from page 59)

er "rivals diplomats in their own methods, but meantime is the wheel horse of the recreation chariot in its imposing progress." The drama and the music services of the association were reviewed by F. S. Titsworth. "Nothing can take the place of drama in a recreation program," he said.

Girls have been neglected in provision for recreation, said Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, of Carlisle, Pa., reading a report for Mrs. Charles V. Hickox, of Michigan City, Indiana, who founded the association's department of field service on recreation activities for women and girls. "An athletic tradition for boys has been built up," she read, "but until recent years the athletic program for girls has been more or less haphazard." Carl E. Milliken, former governor of Maine, presented a comprehensive statement of recreation needs, including more land for playgrounds and parks, the beautification of playgrounds, increase of forest areas, legislation in many states, superior training opportunities for leadership, more leadership in rural districts, and selection of leaders on the basis of ability rather than because of political service.

Looking to the Future

The varied economic advantages of public recreation were summed up by Austin E. Griffiths, former justice of the Superior Court in Seattle, Washington. F. Trubee Davison, besides speaking for the War Department, presented a paper calling for securing more land for all types of recreation areas both within city limits and nearby. "Many playgrounds have been donated, but now, in part as a result of William E. Harmon's efforts, it is commonly recognized by subdividers that playgrounds in new subdivisions are a good business investment just as important as streets."

"A new culture may come in America if there can be full freedom for creative use of the spare time of the nation," declared John G. Winant, Governor of New Hampshire, whose paper was submitted in his absence. "The careful training of children for the recreational use of leisure will progressively, generation by generation, affect not only the social life but the music, the drama, the art and the sport of the entire nation," he stated. Others present were: Mrs. Arthur G. Cummer, Mrs. Charles D. Lanier, Robert Garrett, and Frederick M. Warburg, of the board, and H. S. Braucher, secretary.

—W. W. P.

World at Play

Awards Made in Philadelphia.—The presentation of awards was an occasion heralded with great acclaim by those attending the centers maintained by the Bureau of Recreation, Department of Public Welfare, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Funfield Recreation Center was the scene of the presentation on January 20th, and a program of music, tumbling and clogging, added interest. The Bureau classifies all the recreation centers under its jurisdiction into three groups according to the facilities of the particular center, and points are awarded the centers for participation and for the winning of various honors in the activities conducted by the Bureau. A perpetual plaque is presented each year to the winner of every group. A banner is given each month to the center in each group earning the largest number of points for that period. Activities range from athletic games to singing and drama.

The Appalachian Trail Conference.—The fifth annual Appalachian Trail Conference will be held under the auspices of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, June 12 to 14, 1931, at the Mountain View Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Plans for the conference meeting include hikes and motor trips in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and vicinity. Information regarding the meetings may be secured from Professor H. M. Jennison, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Rodeo Delights Boys in Louisville.—Eighteen hundred and seventy-five boys, ranging from the ages of 10 to 15, took part in the rodeo activities on the playgrounds. The State Fair Board sent an expert cowboy who taught lariat throwing on the various playgrounds different days of the week. The boys who succeeded in perfecting the art were given a ticket to the State Fair and allowed to take part in the grandstand activities. It was an interesting late season activity, and of course the boys greatly enjoyed playing they were cowboys with the expert.

"It is sound, common sense to provide for amusement and recreation for the people of a community under the best of conditions. Free public recreation becomes an imperative necessity in times of stress."—*Oglebay Institute Bulletin*.

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Contribution of Recreation

(Continued from page 92)

cause of this, many restraining influences have had to come into these movements to correct evils which might have been avoided with careful forethought. One error well nigh resulted disastrously: the early objective of Health was almost lost sight of by the informal movement in its stress on self expression and the social and moral objectives. This was most grave, in view of the fact that the Physical Education Department was in reality the only school department entrusted with the responsibility of the health of the students. The consequence was a rival movement, the Health Movement, which has arisen within practically the last decade, and which in some places has usurped the place of Physical Education. In most instances, however, a happy reunion is being effected by means of the combined title Health and Physical Education, with *Health* and *Physical* used in the adjective sense. With this combined department linked together in a happy administrative plan, the physical, mental, moral, and social aspects of Physical Education activity all get full recognition, and the medical approach (which well nigh disappeared under the earlier enthusiasm of the informal movement) is back again in a very wholesome health education and health service capacity.

In conclusion, the contributions of Recreation to Physical Education are not yet ended, because the health, physical, and recreational program of schools and communities are now finding their best interests realized by wholehearted cooperation with each other. There are certain "core" objectives which all share in common. *All aim for the healthy and happy child and citizen.* To this end the *health* program contributes certain health teaching, health habit acquiring, and health remedial service which the others would neglect; the *physical education* program stresses activity as an educational process, with health, mental growth, and character as outcomes of properly graded and directed programs; and the *recreation* movement gives an emphasis—otherwise lost—in its leisure activities which are strictly not health or motor, namely, pageantry, story telling, nature study, scouting, music, dramatics, quiet games, mixer games, and the like. "All for one and one for all" would happily describe the relation of these three divisions—all striving for a common aim.

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Park Recreation

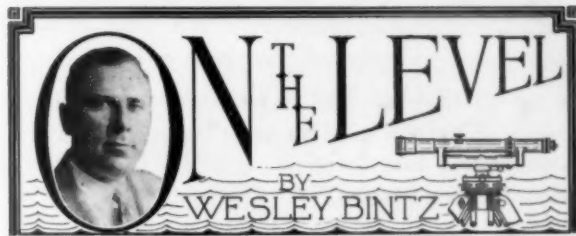
(Continued from page 84)

scape recreation parks. The early planners would be no less amazed at the organization of a modern park department and at the varied personnel. They would be familiar with the engineering, landscape gardening and material maintenance personnel but entirely unfamiliar with the numerous office employees and activities personnel comprising playground supervisors and leaders, municipal athletic directors, community center directors and assistants, nature study leaders, community music and dramatic directors, handcraft instructors, swimming instructors, golf managers and instructors. Budgets for maintenance and operation have greatly risen during the past thirty years in nearly all the larger cities of the country. Park departments have become large business organizations as well as widely varied human service institutions. A new type of chief executive has appeared—a type distinguished by business organizing ability, knowledge of personnel practices, and sympathetic, keen insight into the leisure time needs of the people.

In a small city in the middle west there is a park comprising about seven hundred and fifty acres that in design, construction and operation is prophetic of what parks and park systems will more and more become in the future. In this single park there is a physical activities center comprising an eighteen hole golf course, ball grounds, and other games facilities, a riding academy, swimming pool and ten miles each of hiking and riding trails; fine arts, natural science, community dramatics, community music, social recreation, handcraft art, family camp and camp conference centers. There are also numerous picnic centers, and a garden center for instructing the people in plant materials, care of plants and in landscape design. Forest plantations comprise several hundred acres. This park is a paradise of beauty and at the same time provides opportunities for the expression of most of the major human interests.

Thus in the course of the evolutionary development of parks and park departments they have ceased to represent outstandingly a single great art as in the beginning, and have partially become, and will more fully in the future become institutions for the promotion and fulfillment of the art of living, which comprises all the arts and more. In meeting the demands of the new age of wholesale leisure they will inevitably take their place in

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A-A, friends (pronounced Aye-Aye), and meaning Good Morning, Good Day or Good Evening, as, if and when. Don't forget, you met me at the Annual Recreation Congress.

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Will some one answer this question for me? No kidding. Why do so many Recreation Superintendents, Commissions, etc., think their duty and responsibility is to local inexperienced professional talent, rather than to the public, who has given and entrusted to them an amount of money to spend (i.e. for a swimming pool) in an economical and judicious manner? ON THE LEVEL, a lot of them do, but why?

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the structure of organized society as institutions second to none of the great institutions which have promoted the physical well being, enlightened the mind, inspired and enheartened the spirit and promoted the general happiness of mankind.

"I would insist that the man who spends four years in our north country here and does not learn to hear the melody of rustling leaves or does not learn to love the wash of the racing brooks over their rocky beds in spring, who never experiences the repose to be found on lakes and rivers, who has not stood enthralled upon the top of Moosilauke on a moonlight night or has not become a worshiper of color as he has seen the sun set from one of Hanover's hills, who has not thrilled at the whiteness of the snow-clad countryside in winter or at the flaming forest colors of the fall—I would insist that this man has not reached out for some of the most worth-while educational values accessible to him at Dartmouth."—Dr. Ernest M. Hopkins, president of Dartmouth College.

Amateur Arts in a Machine Age

(Continued from page 68)

a group that is building telescopes to study the stars. Inventors, writers, engineers, lawyers, housewives and business men belong to these nature study groups.

In the near future the Workshop plans to hold classes in pottery, sculpture, and scene painting.

It seems to me that there are two points on which many of us fail to agree and on which the success of this type of recreation program depends.

The first is the recognition of adult leisure. In the confusion of present day living it is difficult to feel that we actually have time to do any of the things mentioned. We *do* have the time, providing the interest is sufficiently deep, the challenge sufficiently strong to stir us to make a place for it. If we want to do any one thing strongly enough, we can easily clear out a number of less important things. It is a matter of choice.

The second point is the matter of standards. There is no challenge to further effort if we do not keep our standards high. We do not learn mountain climbing by walking on a level pave-

ment. A program in music, drama or the graphic arts will not live if, as has been so often said, we start with the "popular demand" or the "popular taste." I believe that every normal human being has a deep seated hunger for the best that life has to offer. Let us in all humility offer the best in our programs. We are snobs if we feel that we must stoop to levels beneath us and gradually work up. The arts, like the "sun, moon, and stars, brother," and "likewise the wind on the heath," belong to all of us.

A choral group, singing real music, starting with twenty members and ending with two hundred is a far greater achievement than a community sing starting with four thousand singing jingles and ending where it began.

In the arts, let us be true to the best that is in all of us. Let us avoid imitations and choose those things that present the greatest challenge, an awakening of the deepest interest, not those that attract the greatest numbers. Tin foil, tinsel and tissue paper do not lead on to greater development. A decorative merry-go-round of outside trimmings can never develop interests that make us glad to be alive.

A person painting a landscape is doing something more than making a picture on canvas. He is experiencing a deep communion with nature, his eyes are open to colors that he never knew existed, he is creating something that is essentially his own and at the same time, he is establishing an understanding, however small, with all the painters since Giotto. He can never afterward see a master's painting without a thrill of fellow feeling and an urge to greater effort to create and understand. Can we expect such results from copying pictures and pasting colored paper on jam jars?

Recreation directors have high ideals and high standards in athletics. They do not start people off with just any old stroke in swimming because they "like to do it that way." Isn't it just as important that we keep our standards high for all phases of our recreation program and isn't it important that our recreation programs should include all phases?

As our developing programs are a constant challenge to us who are workers, they should be an even greater challenge to those for whom they have been planned. In the words of the good, grey poet: "It is provided in the essence of things that from any fruition of success, no matter what, shall come forth something to make a greater struggle necessary."

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Early Days of the Playground Association of America

(Continued from page 72)

addresses carried the gospel of play to a great many audiences.

There is evidence that a very real service was rendered the new movement by its first secretary, Dr. Henry S. Curtis. Dr. Curtis showed much originality in suggesting possible lines of activity. He gave considerable time to interviewing individuals and explaining the possibilities of the new movement to them. He never wavered in his faith as to what the new movement might become. He gave generously of his time to the problems of the new Association.

The Association owes much to the charm and personality, the solid faithful work, the energy, and enthusiasm of Lee F. Hanmer, who served as the first field secretary. Mr. Hanmer traveled many thousands of miles over the country meeting with local groups and helping them with working out local problems. Fifteen years after the early trips of Mr. Hanmer, many communities were still showing the influence of the early contact with him.

Dr. Seth Thayer Stewart as a volunteer gave most generously of his time and his ability as editor of *THE PLAYGROUND* for three years. He also served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association. Dr. Stewart had great faith in the future of the national movement and was ever ready to help.

The Playground Association of America owed much to the sympathetic and understanding co-operation of the leaders of the Russell Sage Foundation. At the time of the Chicago Play Congress, Robert W. DeForest of the Russell Sage Foundation sent Lawrence Veiller to report on the possibilities of the new movement. Mr. Veiller was particularly impressed with Dr. Gulick's leadership and in his report to Mr. DeForest urged strongly that financial aid be given to the new movement. As a result of Mr. Veiller's report and the favorable consideration given to it by the Russell Sage Foundation, Dr. Gulick was employed by the Foundation on full time and authorized to use part of his time to serve as President of the Playground Association of America.

Foundation leaders felt that the Association should develop its own members and contributors and its own financial support. The Russell Sage



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Foundation agreed to underwrite the cost of a brief financial campaign to secure support for the Association. Mr. John M. Glenn, Director of the Foundation, has stated that this is one of the best investments which the Foundation ever made. At the same time the Foundation contributed all of the time of Lee F. Hanmer from November, 1907, until June, 1909, and much of the time of Luther Halsey Gulick from November, 1907, until June, 1910. The records of the Association show that on November 15, 1907, Lee F. Hanmer was elected field secretary of the association.

The first annual Congress of the Association was held in Chicago, June 20-22, 1907. This meeting had a most unusual quality of vitality, freshness and enthusiasm. Though the number of delegates attending was small, the spirit was such that a very unusual interest was given to the meeting.

It is clear that the time was ripe for the new movement; that the country is greatly indebted to the individuals who had an active part in shaping the policies of the new Association and giving power to them.

One cannot read the early history without feeling that a very large number of individuals throughout the country were waiting and eager

to respond to the leadership provided and that after all, the Association has never been the work of one or two or three individuals, but has been the expression of something deep in the nature of America herself; that the early leaders helped to give conscious expression to a movement for which many had been longing.

Changes in Playground Design

(Continued from page 97)

erally considered most suitable for public playgrounds. The popularity of such apparatus and its proved value has resulted during the last quarter century in its installation in countless private play areas such as at homes, apartment houses, settlements, schools and churches.

Marked improvements have been made in the construction of apparatus, resulting in greater safety and longer use. In the early days wrought iron pipe threaded and joined with "T's" and "L's" was in common use. The weakening of the pipe due to the threads and to the resulting rust, has been eliminated by the present day use of galvanized steel pipe which is joined by various types of fittings which are bolted securely to the pipe. The clumsy and not too durable materials formerly used in suspending swings, rings and other apparatus from the frames have been replaced by roller bearing drop forged and rust proof hangers and clamps. The use of aluminum for rings and grip handles on the giant stride and of other rust proof materials are typical of the efforts of manufacturers to contribute to the safety and durability of their apparatus. The use of wooden frames and supports and of rope for suspending apparatus, so common twenty-five years ago, has been almost entirely abandoned in favor of more durable materials.

In the smaller playgrounds of a quarter century ago although a space was generally allowed for games, often no special courts were laid out for such games as basketball or volley ball. Today, however, one or more game courts are considered essential. In the large centers, special areas for many of the team games now played were provided but the following game areas now frequently found in playgrounds and playfields were seldom, if ever, included in the early plans; field hockey, volley ball, paddle tennis (a new game), handball, soccer, roque, shuffleboard, archery, horseshoes, clock golf and bowling. During the last decade there has been a tremendous increase in the number of tennis courts.

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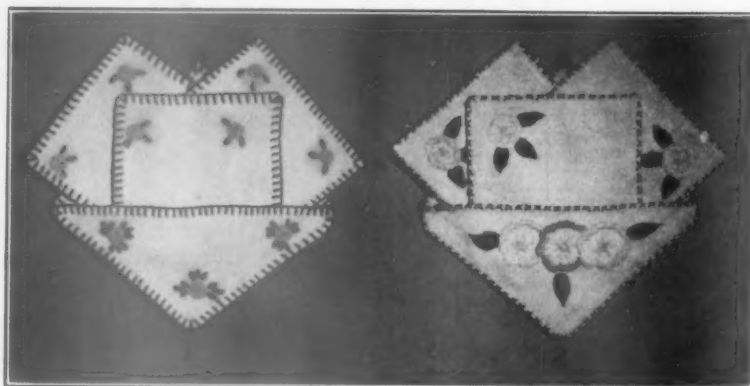
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(Continued on page 106A)

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How It Began

(Continued from page 71)

gates assembled with President Roosevelt at the White House in accordance with arrangements which had been made through Mr. Charles F. Weller. Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick spoke in behalf of the assembled delegates and President Roosevelt responded, emphasizing particularly the necessity of giving the children a considerable measure of freedom in their play.

During the first two years I had charge of raising all the money that was necessary to carry the Association, and also of the program of the two first annual meetings.

Supt. Seth T. Stewart, Chairman of the Executive Committee was very helpful throughout, and undertook the publication of the *PLAYGROUND MAGAZINE* on his own initiative.

In order to secure a good representation of City Officials at our first Congress in Chicago, I wrote a letter to the mayors of all the principal cities, asking that they send a delegate to this meeting. This letter was signed by President Roosevelt and gave us our first general recognition from the country at large.

In making arrangements for the first annual meeting in Chicago, a group called together through the assistance of Mary McDowell later resolved itself in the Playground Association of Chicago, and as such functioned for a number of years.

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Changes in Playground Design

(Continued from page 105)

On the other hand, the running track which is found on few recently constructed playfields, was considered an essential feature of the large playground early in the century.

Many of the early authorities believed that the playground should be fenced, although opinion was divided. When ample funds were available, iron picket fence was erected, otherwise hedges were used or a "wire fencing, attached to pointed 2" iron posts set 15' apart with three strands of barbed hog wire on top." Today the fence is considered an essential part of the equipment of most playgrounds and the modern woven wire fence galvanized after weaving is in common use. It was often suggested that vines, shrubs, trees and flowers be planted inside the fence but the practice of providing a border planting outside the fence, which is set back several feet from the playground boundary, is a recent one.

The early leaders laid great stress upon the importance of shade and beauty in the playgrounds. Some of the larger areas gave evidence of the practice of this theory but little could be done with the very small playground. The recent tendency to acquire larger areas and the demonstrated value of beauty on the playground are among the causes of the marked progress in this respect that has been made during the last few years. Shade is also considered important today even though it may be no longer true that the young and older girls "are thoughtful about their complexion and seem unable to endure the direct rays of the sun in the same manner that boys seem to be able to endure it."

In few if any types of equipment have greater advances been made than in the case of lighting—or illumination as it is now called. A few of the early playgrounds were equipped with arc lights and frequently smaller lights were strung up permitting the playing of games requiring a slight degree of illumination. By use of the huge reflectors which are now obtainable, such activities as tennis, baseball, football and hockey may be played successfully at night. To an increasing extent cities are getting greater service from a wide variety of game areas and recreation facilities due to the improved illumination methods.

Surfacing has always been a perplexing problem. In the *Normal Course in Play*, issued in 1909, the following surfaces were suggested with comment, "Earth, fine gravel, cinders, mixed cinders and clay, broken stone, cement brick and asphalt."

A considerable range of choice is allowed by this list. Many experiments have been conducted to find the ideal surfacing but it has not yet been discovered. The greatest need is for a surface that is suitable for play and which may be used throughout the entire year. Limestone screenings have given a considerable degree of satisfaction but most of the recent experiments have been with hard surfaces in which asphalt and oil products are used with crushed stone, sawdust, cork or other materials. A committee is now studying these types of surfaces and it is hoped that valuable data may be made available bearing on this difficult problem. With the growing emphasis on year round out-of-door play, especially at schools, there is a tendency to surface part of the play area with a hard surface even though the major portion may be in turf or natural soil. The past decade has seen a great increase in the number of asphalt and concrete tennis courts which were few in number a quarter century ago.

Other trends which might be mentioned briefly are the increased demand for public bathing facilities and the marked improvements in their construction, equipment and sanitation; the development of stadia and grandstands, mention of which can rarely be found in the early playground literature; the recent interest in outdoor drama resulting in the provision of simple or elaborate outdoor theatres; the recent boom in miniature golf courses. On the other hand, the children's gardens which were a feature of so many of the early playgrounds seem to have been neglected in many cities. Possibly the almost universal provision of shelter houses on the playgrounds today may be in part attributed to the passing of the "nearby saloons and stables" which, it was pointed out in an early report, became accessories of the playground if toilet facilities were not provided. Although many playgrounds and playfields have buildings with one or more rooms which may be used for group activities and in some instances rather elaborate indoor facilities have been provided, few cities have recreation buildings comparable to those erected more than twenty-five years ago in the parks of Chicago.

Whatever changes and trends in equipment during the past quarter century may be recorded, at least one statement made in 1911 is endorsed today by all thoughtful recreation leaders. The passing years have not altered the fact pointed out by DeGroot in his *Practical Talk on Playground Equipment*, that the play leader is "the most important element of the equipment."



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Public Recreation and Leisure

(Continued from page 86)

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Play and Printer's Ink

(Continued from page 76)

istence to the interest aroused in groups of citizens by these pleas for the right of children to play.

The literature of the recreation movement has greatly increased in the past two decades, and today the Association has on its list of publications such books as *The Park Manual*, a study in two volumes of the municipal parks of the country, *County Parks*, a survey of county parks, *Play Areas—Their Design and Equipment*, *Community Drama*, *Community Music*, *Handcraft*, a number of city surveys and research volumes. But this new and more extensive library contains nothing more basic, nor is there any sounder philosophy, than that to be found in the pamphlets which laid the foundation for the present day literature in the leisure time field.

To Clark W. Hetherington and his committee the leisure time movement owes a debt of gratitude for the *Normal Course in Play* which represented the first attempt at scientific and comprehensive training of recreation workers. This syllabus is still being effectively used in normal schools and colleges.

A study of the early Year Books discloses much that is interesting. The first Year Book, published in 1907, was compiled by Leonard P. Ayres, then associated with the Russell Sage Foundation and now vice-president of the Cleveland Trust Company, whose statistics and predictions regarding the economic situation in America are so widely quoted and used. The accuracy of recreation statistics is sometimes challenged, but we can feel certain that in 1907, 57 cities of 100,000 population conducted playgrounds because we have Colonel Ayres' authority for the statement! In the interest of history, however, Colonel Ayres' statement should perhaps be recorded to the effect that "in some cases the information published is not to be trusted as absolutely 'correct.'" (Colonel Ayres was a prophet, even then!)

They were distinctly "good old days" of experimentation, of pioneering, of planting seed and watching it grow, pulling it up sometimes to see why it wasn't growing faster! And this old timer counts it a rare privilege to have had a small share in it all.

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Message of Ralph T. O'Neil

(Continued from page 75)

bring out various publications, the most recent of which is "Playgrounds and Recreation for Your Community." This has inspired action on the part of Legion posts, showing them how to go about handling their own problems in this regard.

Frequently Legion posts have invited representatives of the association to cooperate in developing community recreation plans, and the field workers of the association have been aided by our local Legion organizations throughout the United States.

Our ideals, in many respects, rest on a common ground, enriching community life, instilling the sense of individual obligation to one's community, and promoting health and principles of good citizenship in the minds and hearts of our children and their parents. It is my sincere desire that the steady progress, which has been enjoyed in this work by the Legion, due to the splendid and wholehearted cooperation of the National Recreation Association, will be continued.

Ralph T. O'Neil,
National Commander,
The American Legion.

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Magazines and Pamphlets

*Recently Received Containing Articles
of Interest to the Recreation Worker*

MAGAZINES

- Child Welfare*, March 1931
Leisure and Living, by J. W. Faust
Physical Illiteracy, by James Edward Rogers
- The Parents' Magazine*, April 1931
Making Play of Exercise, by Zella Van Ornum Glimm
Playthings in Review, by Janet M. Knopf
Books for Boys and Girls, by Alice Dalglish
- The Architectural Record*, February 1931
Stadium Planning and Design, by Myron W. Serby
- Child Welfare Magazine*, April 1931
Shall I Send My Child to Camp? by Ada Hart Arlitt
What Is a Children's Museum? by Catherine C. Leach
- Boys' Club Round Table*, March 1931
This issue is devoted almost entirely to various phases of camping for boys.
- The Grade Teacher*, March 1931
Our Puppet Show, by Gladys H. Smith
- The Survey* Midmonthly, March 1931
A Possible Justification of Research, by Joseph Lee
- Southern City*, March 1931
The Status of Recreation in the South, by P. F. Witherspoon
Southern Strides in Play, by M. Travis Wood
Municipal Recreation Center Houses in Texas
Building a City's Recreation Department, by Will H. Mayes
Play Program Should Be Year Round, by Ralph F. Lamar
Your City and Recreation, by W. E. Bowers
- Scouting*, March 1931
Stunts in Knifecraft, by E. J. Tangerman
How to Build a Model Duration Cabin Monoplane, by H. S. Coffin
How to Make a Model Napoleonic Coach
- Parks and Recreation*, April 1931
Design of Leominster Playground, by Herbert J. Kellaway
Relief of Unemployed by Work on State Parks and Forests, by Wilbur L. Cross
Thirty Years of Park Golf Operation, by V. K. Brown
Tennis Problems
West Chicago Playground Plans
The Scope of Sound Systems in Parks and Amusement Resorts, by H. G. Cisin
- The American City*, April 1931
"Our Best Playground Idea"
Why Almost Every One in Minneapolis Plays, by Charles E. Doell
Recreation Development for Unemployment Relief
Shall Play and Recreation Centers Be Operated on Sunday? by C. A. Emmons, Jr.
A Municipal Orchestra in a City of 60,000—Irvington, New Jersey
Junior Safety Cadets Make Fine Record—Milwaukee
Continued Progress of Pioneer Playground System—Chicago
Kenosha Uses Underground Sprinklers in Public Parks
Lighting for Night Tennis in Public Parks
Tennis—Court Lighting in Newark, New Jersey, by Nelson A. Kieb

PAMPHLETS

- Louden Playground, Gymnasium, Beach and Pool Equipment*, Catalog for 1931 listing new equipment and improved apparatus. J. E. Porter Corporation, Ottawa, Illinois.
- Director's Report Summer Playgrounds*, Royal Oak Township 1930
- Directory of Settlements*, Published in *Neighborhood* December 1930

Recreation Legislation

(Continued from page 81)

Perhaps the most important need in the field of state legislation for development of local recreation is a thorough personal study in the states themselves of all existing powers, no matter in which code they may exist, which localities have to develop public recreation service.

In this connection it would be necessary not only to know the state law but the more important state supreme court decisions interpreting these laws, particularly those of a general nature where powers are not expressly stated and therefore not always generally used. An example of the importance of this is evidenced by the situation in Kansas where several supreme court decisions defining the term "park" include within the meaning of "park" such recreation areas as playgrounds, swimming pools, athletic fields, golf courses, and so on.

Upon completion of such a study it would then be possible to determine the legislative defects in the various states and to draft a bill in each state which would correct such defects and bring to the localities the full general powers which it is generally recognized localities should now have for the development of public recreation. This would help to correct a somewhat general present practice on the part of individual localities to have piecemeal laws passed from time to time to meet some particular current local situation to the confusion of the general legislative situation.

Recreational Philosophy

(Continued from page 89)

mature thinking about social phenomena can have any conception of the breadth and depth of these prejudices—the common attitudes of the most intelligent classes. Lawyers, doctors, professional men in general and school men in particular thought in terms of "work" or so-called "serious" efforts. Play was plainly a waste of time and of value only to let off "surplus steam." Even after the Playground and Recreation Association began its promotional campaign, the prejudices against its objectives were frequently voiced with violences, sneering contempt, and sometimes cruel personal thrusts. Only by the presentation of facts which no one could ignore were the attitudes of people interested in social problems and then of the more intelligent and influential people changed.



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Book Reviews

THE ART OF DIRECTING PLAYS. D. C. Ashton. Eldridge Entertainment House, Inc., Franklin, Ohio. \$1.50.

In this little volume it has been the purpose of the author to present the intricate mechanism of play production in the most simple and practical way possible. The book is designed primarily to aid directors of little theatres and of school organizations, and it presents answers to innumerable questions on the subject of directing which have been brought to the attention of the author.

ART IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Margaret E. Mathias. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$2.50.

For all interested in creative art and in fostering and developing the child's natural impulse to express his feelings about his experiences through the use of materials, this book will prove exceedingly helpful. Many of the children's drawings are reproduced.

STAGE SCENERY AND LIGHTING. Samuel Selden and H. D. Sellman. F. S. Crofts and Company, New York. \$4.50.

Heralded as the most comprehensive and practical volume on the technical problems of the stage which has yet appeared, this book is of value to the most experienced theatrical technician and the amateur. Mr. Selden, associate director of The Carolina Playmakers, University of North Carolina, has prepared the material on scenery, while Mr. Sellman, technical director, University Theatre of the University of Iowa, is responsible for the material on lighting.

SONGS FOR CAMPS AND CONFERENCES. National Board of the Young Womens Christian Associations of the United States. The Womens Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York. \$10.

Seventy-six songs, including a number of folk songs and spirituals, appear in this sheet. Unless otherwise noted, the music for all the songs will be found in the Y. W. C. A. Song Book.

THE TEACHER IN THE NEW SCHOOL. Martha Peck Porter. World Book Company. Yonkers-on-Hudson, New York. \$2.00.

In the new conception of education which is based on the child's abilities, interests, emotions, physical equipment and his adjustment to the social group, the role played by the teacher is of vital importance. *The Teacher in the New School* is a detailed study of the teacher's part in organizing material and conducting classwork in harmony with the principles of child centered schools. It describes the essential methods and underlying procedures based on children's interests and needs so that other

teachers may adapt these procedures to their local school situations.

CAMPING AND EDUCATION. Bernard S. Mason. The McCall Company, New York. \$3.00.

This volume, dealing with camp problems from the campers' viewpoint, was awarded the prize offered by the Redbook Magazine for the most constructive and creative contribution to the theory and practice of organized camping. It discusses such problems as character effects of camping, camp control, leadership, methods of programming, and camp activities. A comprehensive bibliography is given and there are a number of illustrations and tables.

BIENNIAL SURVEY OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES 1928-1930 (Chapter X. Hygiene and Physical Education). Marie M. Ready and James Frederick Rogers, M. D. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. \$0.5.

These advance pages (Volume I.) tell briefly of the findings of a study of hygiene and physical education made by the Office of Education.

THE ARCHITECTURAL RECORD—March, 1931. F. W. Dodge Corporation, 115-119 West 40th Street, New York. Single copy \$75.

Play Areas in Apartment Houses is an interesting and practical article appearing in the March issue of *The Architectural Record*, which in recent issues has had a number of articles of interest to recreation workers.

POPULAR HOMECRAFT—The Homeworkshop Magazine. General Publishing Company, Incorporated, 737 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Popular Homecraft is a new bi-monthly magazine whose slogan is "Build It Yourself." Families in which the homeworkshop occupies an important place will find exceedingly helpful this magazine with its practical suggestions for making articles of all kinds from copper match box holders to step-down transformers. The cost of a year's subscription is \$2.00.

COPING SAW WORK. Ben W. Johnson. The Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Illinois. \$40.

This manual for teachers and leaders in handcraft activities has practical suggestions to offer recreation workers.

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Colonel Michael Friedsam

In the death of Colonel Michael Friedsam the National Recreation Association has lost a real friend and supporter. For a number of years he contributed personally to the Association's work. In more recent years, as President of the Altman Foundation, his interest and support were enlarged.

The Association thought of him as an "understanding friend." In the breadth of his interests a large space was reserved for those activities promoted for the enrichment of life. He understood thoroughly how much the wise use of leisure could contribute to this purpose and supported generously agencies working toward this end.